

A-Engrossed Senate Bill 1599

Ordered by the Senate February 13
Including Senate Amendments dated February 13

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER, Representative FAHEY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act says the vote on the transportation ballot measure will be in May. (Flesch Readability Score: 77.8).

Moves the election date for the parts of chapter 1, Oregon Laws 2025 (special session), referred to the people by Referendum Petition 2026-302, to the primary election held on May 19, 2026.

Sets the procedure for the statewide special election on Referendum Petition 2026-302.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to a special election date for Referendum Petition 2026-302; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The required number of signatures of Referendum Petition 2026-302 having been verified by the Secretary of State under ORS 250.105, the parts of chapter 1, Oregon Laws 2025 (special session), that are referred by Referendum Petition 2026-302 to the people under Article IV, section 1, of the Oregon Constitution, shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at a special election held throughout this state on the same date as the primary election for 2026 set forth under ORS 254.056 (2).

SECTION 2. Except as otherwise provided in sections 1 to 6 of this 2026 Act, ORS chapters 250, 251 and 254 apply to the special election held on the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act.

SECTION 3. ORS 250.085 applies to the ballot title prepared for the special election held on the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act, except that, if the Supreme Court review process has not been completed by March 12, 2026, the latest ballot title certified by the Attorney General shall be printed in the voters' pamphlet and on the ballot, as provided in ORS 250.067 (3).

SECTION 4. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 251.205, 251.215, 251.225, 251.230 and 251.235, the explanatory statement to be printed in the voters' pamphlet for the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act shall be prepared by a joint legislative committee created for this purpose. The explanatory statement shall be filed with the Secretary of State not later than March 12, 2026.

(2) Notwithstanding ORS 250.125, 250.127 and 250.131, the financial estimate to be printed in the voters' pamphlet for the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act shall be prepared by a joint legislative committee created for this purpose. The financial estimate shall be filed with the Secretary of State not later than March 12, 2026.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (3) The explanatory statement and the financial estimate prepared by the joint committee
2 shall be the explanatory statement and financial estimate printed in the voters' pamphlet.

3 **SECTION 5.** (1) Arguments relating to the measure described in section 1 of this 2026
4 Act may be filed with the Secretary of State under ORS 251.255, except that an argument
5 shall be filed not later than the date set by the Secretary of State by rule.

6 (2) Notwithstanding ORS 192.311 to 192.478 relating to public records, an argument filed
7 under this section is exempt from public inspection until the fourth business day after the
8 deadline for filing arguments.

9 **SECTION 6.** ORS 137.685 applies to the preparation of any racial and ethnic impact
10 statement for the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act, except that,
11 notwithstanding ORS 137.685:

12 (1) The processes for preparing the statement may begin on the effective date of this 2026
13 Act; and

14 (2) The Secretary of State by rule shall establish a deadline for filing the statement with
15 the secretary, provide for a hearing on the statement and for the submission of suggested
16 changes to the statement, establish a deadline for filing any revised statement and establish
17 the date by which the secretary shall certify any statement.

18 **SECTION 7.** This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
19 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect
20 on its passage.
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