

Senate Bill 1599

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 **as introduced**. 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 8 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 the review of the Supreme Court shall be conducted to ensure the ballot title or modified ballot title, if any, is certified by not later than March 12, 2026.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Secretary of State shall cause to be printed in the voters' pamphlet
15 the number, ballot title and text of the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act and
16 the financial estimate, explanatory statement and arguments relating to the measure and
17 any racial and ethnic impact statement. The Secretary of State shall also cause to be printed
18 in the voters' pamphlet any other material required by law. Notwithstanding ORS 251.026, the
19 Secretary of State shall include in the voters' pamphlet the information or statements de-
20 scribed in ORS 251.026 that the Secretary of State considers applicable to the election on the
21 measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act. Notwithstanding ORS 251.285 and subject
22 to ORS 251.008, the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act shall be the only measure
23 included in the voters' pamphlet prepared under this section.

24 (2) Not later than the 10th day before the election, the Secretary of State shall cause the
25 voters' pamphlet to be mailed to each post-office mailing address in Oregon and may use any
26 additional means of distribution necessary to make the pamphlet available to electors.

27 (3) In preparing the voters' pamphlet under this section, the Secretary of State is not
28 required to comply with ORS chapter 279B relating to competitive bidding.

29 **SECTION 8.** (1) Notwithstanding the deadline in ORS 254.085, the Secretary of State shall
30 prepare and deliver to each county clerk by the most expeditious means practicable a cer-
31 tified statement of the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act. The Secretary of State
32 shall include with the statement the number, financial estimate and full ballot title of the
33 measure, and any other information required by law. The Secretary of State shall keep a
34 copy of the statement.

35 (2) The county clerks shall print on the ballot the number, financial estimate and full
36 ballot title of the measure, along with any other material required by law. In lieu of printing
37 the financial estimate, the summary portion of the ballot title or other material required by
38 law on the ballot, a county clerk may include with the ballot the complete text of the ballot
39 title, the financial estimate and any other material required by law.

40 **SECTION 9.** The Secretary of State may adopt rules governing the procedures for con-
41 ducting the election on the measure described in section 1 of this 2026 Act as may be nec-
42 essary to implement sections 1 to 8 of this 2026 Act.

43 **SECTION 10.** This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
44 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect
45 on its passage.

