

SB 1543-1  
(LC 271)  
2/5/26 (HE/ps)

Requested by Senator GORSEK

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
SENATE BILL 1543**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 5 through 25.

2 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 42 and insert:

3 **“SECTION 1.** ORS 184.612 is amended to read:

4 *“184.612. [(1) There is established the Oregon Transportation Commission*  
5 *consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation*  
6 *by the Senate pursuant to Article III, section 4, of the Oregon Constitution.*  
7 *A member serves at the pleasure of the Governor.]*

8 **“(1)(a) There is established the Oregon Transportation Commission**  
9 **consisting of seven members appointed as follows:**

10 **“(A) The Governor shall appoint five voting members who are sub-**  
11 **ject to confirmation by the Senate pursuant to Article III, section 4,**  
12 **of the Oregon Constitution.**

13 **“(B) The President of the Senate shall appoint one state Senator**  
14 **as an ex officio, nonvoting member. The Speaker of the House of**  
15 **Representatives shall appoint one state Representative as an ex officio,**  
16 **nonvoting member. The members appointed under this subparagraph**  
17 **may not be members of the same political party. Party affiliation shall**  
18 **be determined by the appropriate entry on official election registration**  
19 **cards.**

20 **“(b) Members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.**

21 **“(2) The Governor shall appoint ~~the~~ voting members of the commission**

1 in compliance with all of the following:

2 “(a) Members shall be appointed with consideration of the different ge-  
3 ographic regions of the state with one member being a resident of the area  
4 east of the Cascade Range.

5 “(b) Not more than three members [*who*] **may** belong to one political  
6 party. Party affiliation shall be determined by the appropriate entry on offi-  
7 cial election registration cards.

8 “(3) At the time of appointment, a member or a relative or member of the  
9 household of a member, as those terms are defined in ORS 244.020, may not  
10 have an actual conflict of interest, as defined in ORS 244.020.

11 “(4) Notwithstanding ORS 244.120 (2), when met with a potential or actual  
12 conflict of interest, as those terms are defined in ORS 244.020, a member  
13 shall announce publicly the nature of the potential or actual conflict and:

14 “(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, refrain from  
15 participating as a public official in any discussion or debate on the issue out  
16 of which the potential or actual conflict arises or from voting on the issue.

17 “(b) If the member’s vote is necessary to meet a requirement of a mini-  
18 mum number of votes to take official action, be eligible to vote, but not to  
19 participate as a public official in any discussion or debate on the issue out  
20 of which the potential or actual conflict arises.

21 “(5) The term of office of each **voting** member is four years. **The term**  
22 **of office for a legislator who is appointed ex officio under subsection**  
23 **(1)(a)(B) of this section is four years or the end of the legislative**  
24 **member’s legislative term, whichever comes first.** Before the expiration  
25 of the term of a member, the [*Governor*] **appointing authority** shall appoint  
26 a successor whose term begins on July 1 next following. A member is eligible  
27 for reappointment. In case of a vacancy for any cause, the [*Governor*] **ap-**  
28 **pointing authority** shall appoint a person to fill the office for the unexpired  
29 term. **A person may not serve more than two full terms as a member**  
30 **of the commission.**

1 “(6) The Governor shall appoint one of the **voting** members as chair-  
2 person. The chairperson shall appoint one of the other members as vice  
3 chairperson. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall have such terms,  
4 duties and powers as the Oregon Transportation Commission determines are  
5 necessary for the performance of such offices.

6 “(7) A majority of the **voting** members of the commission constitutes a  
7 quorum. If a quorum is present at a meeting, the commission may take action  
8 by an affirmative vote by a majority of the **voting** members who are present.  
9 An individual member may not exercise individually any administrative au-  
10 thority with respect to the Department of Transportation.

11 “(8) The commission shall meet at least quarterly, at a time and place  
12 determined by **the voting members of** the commission. The commission  
13 shall also meet at such other times and places as are specified by the call  
14 of the chairperson or of a majority of **the voting members of** the commis-  
15 sion.

16 “(9) A vacancy does not impair the right of the remaining **voting** mem-  
17 bers to exercise all the powers of the commission, except that three **voting**  
18 members of the commission must agree in the selection, vacation or aban-  
19 donment of state highways, and in case the **voting** members are unable to  
20 agree the Governor shall have the right to vote as a member of the com-  
21 mission.

22 “(10) The commission shall keep complete and accurate records of all the  
23 meetings, transactions and business of the commission at the office of the  
24 department.

25 “(11) The commission may provide an official seal.

26 “(12) The commission may hire staff the commission deems necessary to  
27 assist the commission in carrying out its duties. The staff shall be considered  
28 employees of the department for purposes of the State Personnel Relations  
29 Law under ORS chapter 240.

30 “(13) A **voting** member of the commission is entitled to compensation and

1 expenses as provided by ORS 292.495. **Any legislative members are enti-**  
2 **tled to payment of compensation and expense reimbursement under**  
3 **ORS 171.072, payable from funds appropriated to the Legislative As-**  
4 **sembly.”.**

5 On page 3, line 12, delete “effective date” and insert “operative date  
6 specified in section 4”.

7 Delete lines 32 through 35 and insert:

8 “(4) The debt financing management policy must limit annual debt service  
9 for highway projects to a set percentage of estimated annual state transpor-  
10 tation resources to the State Highway Fund. The commission shall set this  
11 limit at a level that protects the Department of Transportation in a future  
12 budget period from being required to make debt service payments of a size  
13 that other portions of the department’s budget during that period must be  
14 reduced. This subsection does not apply to debt service anticipated to be paid  
15 from federal grant moneys.”.

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