

HB 2744 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Transportation to require each region described in measure to conduct jurisdictional transfer evaluation and to present a report on the evaluations to the Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Establishes the Oregon Highway Jurisdictional Transfer Fund for the purpose of paying costs to upgrade and transfer jurisdiction of highways. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Excludes Clackamas, Hood River, Multnomah, and Washington counties from evaluation requirement. Specifies that departmental report may include recommendations for legislation. Directs Department to conduct study in collaboration with cities and counties that may received proposed transfers under applicable regions, as well as proposed transfers from Clackamas, Hood River, Multnomah and Washington counties identified in "Regional Framework for Highway Jurisdictional Transfer Study" dated November 2020. Specifies that study shall include cost estimates for improving highways prior to transfer and identification of resources to pay for those costs.

BACKGROUND:

Different roads and highways in Oregon fall under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), counties, and cities. In some cases, certain segments of roads were constructed decades ago, after which changing patterns of development significantly altered the traffic patterns and uses of the road. This has resulted in numerous examples of roads falling under the jurisdiction of a level of government that rank the road segment as a lower priority than do other levels of government. These cases sometimes necessitate transferring jurisdiction for the roadway from one government to another; sometimes this means transferring a road from local jurisdiction to state jurisdiction, but generally it is the local government that seeks jurisdictional control of the roadway.

Effecting these jurisdictional transfers, however, can be problematic because they often require significant financial investment to bring them up to a condition where the receiving jurisdiction can assume management of the facility. Lack of funding to make these improvements has been an historical barrier to jurisdictional transfers. House Bill 2017 (2017) provided for funding improvements to several road segments and for their jurisdictional transfer, including portions of Pacific Highway West (State Highway 91) to City of Eugene; portions of Springfield Highway (State Highway 228) to City of Springfield; and portions of Powell Boulevard to City of Portland. There were also several road segments transferred between ODOT and Lane County, including segments of Territorial Highway (State Highway 200), Springfield-Cresswell Highway (State Highway 222), and Delta Highway; and Multnomah and Washington Counties were directed to transfer a portion of Cornelius Pass Road to ODOT.