

HB 4053 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Armitage

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 02/17/22

Action: Do pass.

Senate Vote

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Findley, Frederick, Gorsek

House Vote

Yeas: 7 - Boshart Davis, Evans, Lewis, McLain, Nathanson, Noble, Pham

Exc: 1 - Power

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a study of Oregon Route 6 and report findings to Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15, 2023. Sunsets January 2, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High number of crashes on the corridor
- Road features that make the corridor unsafe
- Insufficient traffic enforcement in corridor
- Impact of safety concerns on business in corridor

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Route 6 is a state highway that connects the Oregon Coast to the Willamette Valley. Colloquially known as the Wilson River Highway, as it runs along the western end of the river, Oregon Route 6 intersects with U.S. Highway 101 in Tillamook at its western terminus and U.S. Highway 26 east of Banks. The highway is part of the "Trees to Sea Scenic Byway," a 68-mile segment that includes the Tillamook State Forest, vineyards and wineries, restaurants, the Tillamook Creamery, and Cape Meares Lighthouse.

The Oregon Route 6 corridor has experienced a number of safety concerns during the last several years, including three fatal accidents in a one-week period in July 2021. All three accidents involved vehicles passing slower vehicles and experiencing head-on collisions.

House Bill 4053 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a study of Oregon Route 6, which must include an assessment of conditions in the corridor, a list of the highway's deficiencies, and cost-estimated recommendations to return the corridor to a state of good repair.