

HB 2137 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Willamette River Bridge Task Force. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

NOTE - measure has a subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

There are currently two road bridges that span the Willamette River in Salem: the Center Street Bridge, constructed in 1918, carries traffic eastbound on Oregon Highway 22; and the Marion Street Bridge, which was completed in 1952 and which carries traffic westbound on Highway 22. The next closest road crossings are the Champoeg Road Bridge, 34 miles to the north, and the Independence Street Bridge, which is just under 13 miles to the south.

House Bill 2137 establishes an eight-member Willamette River Bridge Task Force, consisting of two legislators appointed by the presiding officers and six members appointed by the Governor, three each from lists of persons recommended by the Marion County and Polk County boards of commissioners, respectively. The Task Force is directed to study strategies for financing, constructing, and maintaining an additional bridge spanning the Willamette River and connecting Polk and Marion counties.