

HB 3231 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that the state's passenger rail plan must include ways to fix and improve track and related infrastructure , information about boosting capacity, and providing information about federal grants sought and received. Directs Department of Transportation to provide biennial status updates no later than December 31 of each even-numbered year. Consolidates numerous required reports on passenger rail into one single section of law. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Rail Plan was initially adopted in 2014, with a revised edition adopted in August of 2020. ORS 824.400 outlines required components of that report, such as marketing strategy, strategies for increasing ridership and tourism through use of passenger rail.

House Bill 3231 expands the required components of the State Rail Plan to include strategies for boosting capacity, upgrading and improving railroad track and infrastructure, and information on grants applications submitted and their approval status. The measure also institutes a reporting requirement to the Joint Committee on Transportation, as well as a quarterly report to that Committee on passenger rail performance (this second report would replace the Amtrak Quarterly Report already required by law).