

# Enrolled House Bill 3233

Sponsored by Representative NATHANSON, Senator GORSEK; Representatives GAMBA, GRAYBER, MANNIX, NERON, WALTERS, Senators ANDERSON, FREDERICK, PATTERSON, PHAM K, WOODS (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to rail; creating new provisions; amending ORS 824.400 and 824.430; repealing ORS 824.410; and prescribing an effective date.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 824.400 is amended to read:

824.400. (1) The Department of Transportation shall develop and implement a passenger rail plan for the purposes of increasing ridership on passenger trains and increasing ticket revenue. The passenger rail plan must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) A marketing strategy.
- (b) Strategies for boosting ridership.
- (c) Strategies for boosting tourism through the use of passenger rail.
- (d) Strategies for boosting capacity.**
- (e) Strategies for upgrading and improving railroad track and related infrastructure.**
- (f) Information about federal rail infrastructure grant applications submitted, denied and approved, provided in summary form.**

(2) The department may coordinate with other state agencies to develop the plan.

**(3) The department shall submit a quarterly report on the performance of passenger rail to the Joint Committee on Transportation in the manner provided in ORS 192.245. The report must include a summary of the number of passengers utilizing passenger rail and on-time performance for the previous quarter.**

**SECTION 2.** (1) The Department of Transportation shall work with the Washington State Department of Transportation, the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and other public bodies, as appropriate, to document and memorialize, in whatever form is the most appropriate, a shared regional approach to Cascades passenger rail planning, funding and communications including:

- (a) Developing a plan to document the shared vision, goals and objectives for passenger rail service and freight rail service within the Cascades Rail Corridor.**
- (b) Developing a plan to achieve performance goals, manage fleet assets, share costs, prioritize investments, improve infrastructure and resolve interagency disputes.**
- (c) Proposing funding options to the respective legislative bodies to support the infrastructure improvements and operation of passenger and freight trains within the corridor.**

(d) Developing federal funding applications consistent with the shared plans described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(e) Developing a stakeholder outreach program.

(f) Overseeing operations and marketing of daily passenger rail service in the corridor.

(2) The Department of Transportation may enter into agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation to coordinate shared passenger rail service development plans.

(3) As used in this section, “public body” has the meaning given that term in ORS 174.109.

**SECTION 3.** ORS 824.430 is amended to read:

824.430. Before January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Department of Transportation shall report to the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 about the following:

(1) The status of agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation and the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the Cascades Rail Corridor.

(2) The performance of passenger rail service within the corridor.

(3) The financial status of the corridor and financial needs for passenger rail service within the corridor.

(4) The status of developing the passenger rail plan, actions taken to implement the plan and any needed legislative changes.

(5) The status of the shared regional approach and plans with the Washington State Department of Transportation and the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding transportation by rail within the Cascades Rail Corridor.

**SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation may enter into agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation and other governmental entities in order to collaborate on developing shared objectives for passenger and freight rail, developing regional approaches to rail infrastructure improvements and enabling joint proposals to federal and other funding sources.

**SECTION 5.** ORS 824.410 is repealed.

**SECTION 6.** This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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**Passed by House April 16, 2025**

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

**Passed by Senate April 29, 2025**

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

**Received by Governor:**

.....M,....., 2025

**Approved:**

.....M,....., 2025

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Tina Kotek, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M,....., 2025

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State