

House Bill 2979

Sponsored by Representative KENY-GUYER, Senator MONROE, Representative GORSEK; Representative PILUSO

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Funds free, or reduced-fare, transit passes for students attending public secondary schools and increased transit service in vicinity of public secondary schools.

Allows public body to request funding from Department of Transportation after designing, in coordination with school district, program to provide public transit to students attending public secondary schools.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to transit services for secondary school students; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. There is appropriated to the Department of Transportation, for the biennium**
5 **beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$20 million for the purpose**
6 **of carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2015 Act.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "public transit" means a system of public**
8 **conveyance offered to members of the general public and provided by a public body, as de-**
9 **fin ed in ORS 174.109.**

10 **(2) The Department of Transportation may enter into an agreement with a public body**
11 **that provides public transit to provide the public body with funding for:**

12 **(a) Free, or reduced-fare, transit passes, valid for a 12-month period, for students who**
13 **attend public secondary schools within the service area of the public transit.**

14 **(b) Additional routes or increased service in the vicinity of public secondary schools.**

15 **(3) One or more public bodies, in coordination with one or more school districts that**
16 **serve territory within the public bodies, may:**

17 **(a) Design a program, appropriate to the needs of the communities served, to provide:**

18 **(A) Transit passes valid for a 12-month period, free or at a reduced-fare, to students who**
19 **attend public secondary schools.**

20 **(B) Additional routes or increased service in the vicinity of public secondary schools.**

21 **(b) Propose a level, 10 percent or more, at which the school districts or other public**
22 **bodies will match state funding that is provided from moneys appropriated under section 1**
23 **of this 2015 Act for the program.**

24 **(4) A public body that has designed a program described in subsections (2) and (3) of this**
25 **section may submit an application for funding to operate the program, in the manner pro-**
26 **vided by rule of the department.**

27 **(5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules:**

28 **(a) Must establish a process for submission of an application.**

29 **(b) Must require the school districts or other public bodies to match, at a rate of 10**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 percent or more, the state funding that is provided from moneys appropriated under section
2 1 of this 2015 Act for the programs.

3 (c) May establish a preference for the program designs of public bodies that best leverage
4 the availability of moneys appropriated under section 1 of this 2015 Act.

5 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation shall prepare an annual report on the
6 programs described in section 2 of this 2015 Act and submit the report to the Legislative
7 Assembly in the manner described in ORS 192.245 on or before September 15. The report
8 must include:

9 (1) The number of students using free, or reduced-fare, transit passes provided under the
10 programs;

11 (2) Analysis of the impact of providing free, or reduced-fare, transit passes to students
12 from low-income households on student achievement;

13 (3) Analysis of the impact of the programs on the ability of students to participate in,
14 or attend, extracurricular activities;

15 (4) Analysis of the impact on the number of students using public transit to attend school
16 and participate in, or attend, extracurricular activities; and

17 (5) A compilation of information from participating school districts whose students have
18 received free, or reduced-fare, transit passes regarding:

19 (a) The financial impact on affected school districts;

20 (b) Changes in student truancy rates; and

21 (c) Changes in student tardiness rates.

22 **SECTION 4.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
23 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
24 on its passage.