

# House Bill 2184

Sponsored by Representative HELFRICH, Senator BONHAM (Presession filed.)

## 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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells the State Treasurer to issue bonds over two biennia to fund a new bridge. (Flesch Readability Score: 75.1).

Directs the State Treasurer to issue general obligation bonds for the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge replacement project in the biennia beginning July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2027.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to transportation.

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3 Whereas the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge is a critical transportation link serving  
4 the economy, safety and resiliency of the Columbia River Gorge; and

5 Whereas the bridge serves as a vital connection for communities on both sides of the river, is  
6 a vital link between the agricultural heartland and ocean ports, and provides essential daily access  
7 to jobs, childcare, schools and medical services; and

8 Whereas the existing bridge, constructed over 100 years ago, was not built to modern safety  
9 standards, is seismically vulnerable and is nearing the end of its usable life; and

10 Whereas the construction of the new bridge will create approximately 250 construction jobs at  
11 its peak, with wages paid to workers in construction trades stimulating economic growth by at-  
12 tracting new businesses; and

13 Whereas improving the efficiency of truck and maritime freight movement will further state and  
14 regional economic development; and

15 Whereas the replacement bridge will be designed to modern safety and seismic standards, while  
16 also significantly improving the reliability and efficiency of operations and maintenance over its  
17 lifespan; and

18 Whereas the bridge replacement project recently secured over \$200 million in federal investment  
19 in addition to existing state commitments; and

20 Whereas a \$105 million commitment in 2025 ensures that work may continue without inter-  
21 ruption due to lack of Oregon matching funds; and

22 Whereas the Legislative Assembly supports the Hood River- White Salmon Interstate Bridge  
23 replacement project through an additional investment of \$105 million; now, therefore,

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

25 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any authorization to issue general obligation**  
26 **bonds under ORS 286A.035, in the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, the State Treasurer shall**  
27 **issue general obligation bonds authorized under Article XI, section 7, of the Oregon Consti-**  
28 **tution, in an amount that produces \$75,000,000 of net proceeds for the Hood River-White**  
29 **Salmon Bridge replacement project, plus an amount estimated by the State Treasurer to pay**  
30 **bond-related costs.**

**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        **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any authorization to issue general obligation  
2        bonds under ORS 286A.035, in the biennium beginning July 1, 2027, the State Treasurer shall  
3        issue general obligation bonds authorized under Article XI, section 7, of the Oregon Consti-  
4        tution, in an amount that produces \$30,000,000 of net proceeds for the Hood River-White  
5        Salmon Bridge replacement project, plus an amount estimated by the State Treasurer to pay  
6        bond-related costs.

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