

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Burley, Cannon, Jenson, Macpherson, Dingfelder
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Beyer, Smith G.
Prepared By:	Cat McGinnis, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/12, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Department of State Lands (DSL), with other agencies, to create a pilot project for streamlining the processing of water-related permits. Sunsets January 2, 2010. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extent to which current removal-fill permit process is supported by fees
- Role Department of State Lands can play in streamlining related federal permitting process
- Adequacy of projected staffing—one staff person for 50 applications
- Whether two years sunset allows adequate time for implementation and data collection

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The executive branch, through a Water-Related Permit Process Improvement Team (WRPPIT), is working to consolidate and streamline the multiple-agency applications and reviews currently required for water-related projects. The WRPPIT includes the Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Advisor and the directors of the State Lands, Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Quality, Land Conservation and Development, and Water Resources Departments, as well as representatives from the Office of Regulatory Streamlining in the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Marine Board, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and Oregon Department of Justice.

HB 2251 carries out the proposed streamlining, providing for one process with a lead agency—DSL—working with partner agencies, a single timeline, a “one-stop shop” with specialized assistance, as well as one set of requirements so applicants can more effectively design and implement their projects. An example of such a project, according to DSL, would be a road construction project that crosses a wetland or stream for which a DSL permit (under ORS 196.800 to 196.900) is needed to fill a portion of the wetland or waterway and for which a limited license under ORS 537.143 is needed from the Water Resources Department to use some water in the construction project and for which a water quality permit from the Department of Environmental Quality would also likely be needed.