

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 3 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Buckley, Hunt, Roblan, Rosenbaum
<b>Nays:</b>	Berger, Esquivel, Thatcher
<b>Exc.:</b>	-
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	6/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates a 12-member Environmental Justice Task Force, to be appointed by the Governor. Specifies duties and responsibilities to include defining environmental justice issues, make recommendations to the Governor, and advise natural resource agencies. Requires natural resource agencies to consider environmental justice issues including community concerns and public participation in decision-making.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fishing in polluted waters of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers
- Environmental discrimination
- History of the concept, including United Nations conference on environmental justice
- Past Governors' actions on the issue
- Ongoing nature of Task Force work
- Legislator membership on the Task Force

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Environmental justice issues generally mean problems that have disproportionately negative impacts on minority and low-income communities. During the past 15 years, limited-duration advisory committees on environmental justice issues were created by Governors Barbara Roberts and John Kitzhaber. The Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Division have also examined these issues.

Senate Bill 420 creates a 12-member Environmental Justice Task Force, to be appointed by the Governor and supported through the Governor's Office. The measure directs state agencies to report annually to the Task Force. State agencies will assist in the work of the Task Force, including ensuring that persons affected by natural resource agencies' decisions have a direct voice in those decisions. The duties of the Environmental Justice Task Force include submission of an annual report to the Governor that identifies environmental justice concerns and the progress of state agencies toward achieving the goals established by the Task Force.