

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Clem
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Avakian

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 20 – 0 – 1

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Hanna, Jenson, Morgan, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields
– Nays:
– Exc:

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Carter, Devlin, Gordly, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund, Whitsett
– Nays:
– Exc: Winters

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/8/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. Revises the definition of “cargo vessel.” Sunsets the Task Force on the convening of the next regular biennial session. Makes technical adjustments to Section 1, chapter 150, Oregon Laws 2007 (Enrolled Senate Bill 432) to clarify definitions relating to regulation of ship breaking operations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- A position was included in the Department of Environmental Quality to work on ballast water issues
- Need to adopt fixes to SB 432 which passed earlier in the session

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Added a section that clarifies definitions included in Section 1, chapter 150, Oregon Laws 2007 (Enrolled Senate Bill 432).

BACKGROUND: Ballast water discharged from shipping vessels is a primary pathway for the introduction of aquatic invasive species into waters of the state. Introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species can have serious negative impacts on natural systems and damage water-dependent infrastructure. Just one example of this is the proliferation of zebra mussels that has occurred in the Great Lakes region.

The 2001 Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 895, which prohibited the discharge of ballast water into waters of the state and directed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to establish a task force on ballast water. The Ballast Water Task Force was reauthorized in 2003 and 2005.

Senate Bill 643 creates the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to study and make recommendations for combating the introduction of aquatic non-indigenous species associated with shipping-related transport into waters of the state. The measure also broadens the definition of “cargo vessel” to include non-self-propelled vessels that are equipped with ballast water. The budget for the Department of Environmental Quality includes a new position to work on ballast water regulation and help staff the Task Force created in this bill.