

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 4 - 1 - 0
Yeas: Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays: Atkinson
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of State Lands (DSL) to assess a one-time fee for removal or fill permits valid over a period of more than one year. Requires director to consider statutory findings regarding wetlands and whether proposed mitigation advances statutory policy objectives for wetland protection in determining whether applicant has provided all practicable mitigation. Authorizes DSL to adopt rule exempting from permit requirements voluntary habitat restoration projects with minimal adverse impacts on waters of the state. Clarifies definition of “converted wetlands.” Clarifies exemption from removal-fill permits for agricultural lands.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Streamlining bill to help alleviate regulatory burdens
- Permit holders often request upfront billing on multi-year permits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon removal-fill law requires people who plan to fill, remove or alter materials in waters of the state to obtain a permit from the Department of State Lands. House Bill 2155A clarifies some provisions of the removal-fill statute affecting agriculture and authorizes an exemption from permit requirements for certain voluntary habitat restoration projects.