

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Barnhart, Bentz, Boone, Gilliam, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to board and inspect vessels regulated under the ballast water statutes (ORS 783.620 – 783.640) and collect samples of ballast water to verify compliance.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to clarify DEQ authority to conduct vessel inspections
- Current inspection efforts
- Regulatory consistency with neighboring states

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: An unintentional consequence of commercial shipping is the transport and introduction of species to ecosystems outside their historic ranges. These aquatic invasive species, freed of the natural controls of their native range, can proliferate in Oregon's waterways, displace native species, and degrade ecosystem services critical to human economies and health. Ballast water management regulations for transoceanic and coast-wide vessel traffic into Oregon waters were established in 2002 to reduce the risk of invasive species introduction. The primary ballast water management practice in widespread use is mid-ocean ballast water exchange. Such exchanges replace high-risk water from distant ports with lower risk waters from open ocean environments.

The Oregon Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force was established by Senate Bill 643 (2007) to study and make recommendations to combat the introduction of non-indigenous species associated with shipping-related transport in Oregon. Members of the Task Force included representatives of academic, maritime, regulatory and environmental perspectives, as well as two advisory members from the Legislative Assembly. The Task Force recommended passage of House Bill 2625 to clarify DEQ's authority to conduct vessel inspections.