## 2009 Regular Legislative Session FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 2544STATUS: B-EngrossedSUBJECT: Establishing the Oregon Environmental Literacy Task ForceGOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Oregon Department of EducationPREPARED BY: Erica Kleiner, Kim ToREVIEWED BY: Monica BrownDATE: June 11, 2009

<u>2009-2011</u>

2011-2013

## **EXPENDITURES:**

See analysis

## **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2009

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE:** This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**ANALYSIS:** House Bill 2544 establishes an eleven-member Oregon Environmental Literacy Task Force charged with developing an environmental literacy plan to integrate environmental education into the academic curriculum. Members would represent educators; public employees from natural resources agencies; the State Forester, or a designee; the Director of Agriculture, or a designee; a member who represents the marine industry, as appointed by the State Marine Director; and an association. A report from the task force is due to the Legislative Assembly no later than October 1, 2010, and the task force is repealed on the convening of the next regular biennial legislative session. House Bill 2544 includes a preamble consisting of explanatory clauses to explain the need for this legislation. HB 2544 allows ODE to accept certain contributions of moneys and assistance. The Task Force is directed to identify the meanings of key terms required for developing the plan and seek input on the plan from a diverse group of sources.

Based on recent experience with new advisory bodies, ODE assumes that the task force would meet in Salem nine times over the course of eleven months. Task force members are entitled to reimbursements for allowable expenses. These claims are anticipated to be minimal. Assuming these limited claims and this limited schedule, ODE calculates incidental costs such as meeting costs, allowable reimbursements for task force members, photocopies and production of the final report to be approximately \$2,000.

Current ODE staff would be assigned to support the task force. ODE estimates the impact on staffing to be a workload equivalent of one Education Specialist at 0.30 FTE and one Office Specialist at 0.20 FTE. ODE values this staff time at approximately \$34,200. ODE would not need to hire additional staff to support this task force, only to re-prioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff. The \$34,200 equivalent serves as an estimate of possible incremental staffing cost if ODE needs to hire additional staff in the event that re-prioritization of duties and responsibilities of existing staff were not feasible during the functional life of the task force or if the cumulative effect of workload from the enactment of other bills exceeds levels assumed in the ODE budget. Other bills are pending before this Legislative Assembly that also would require an expenditure of ODE staff time.