

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 58**Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal OfficePrepared by: John Terpening
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Date: 2/3/2011**Measure Description:**

Abolishes Natural Heritage Advisory Council.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of State Lands, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

| Agency – Fund Type | 2011-13 Biennium | 2013-15 Biennium |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| State Lands – Other Funds | (\$20,827) | |
| State Lands – Federal Funds | (\$129,096) | |
| Total Funds | (\$149,923) | |

| Agency – Fund Type | 2011-13 Biennium | 2013-15 Biennium |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| State Parks & Recreation – Lottery Funds | \$20,827 | \$27,769 |
| State Parks & Recreation – Federal Funds | \$129,096 | \$172,128 |
| Total Funds | \$149,923 | \$199,897 |

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:

The measure abolishes the Natural Heritage Advisory Council and transfers the duties, functions and powers of the Council as well as the Natural Areas Plan and Natural Areas Program from the State Land Board to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). The Parks and Recreation Director may establish a Natural Areas Advisory Committee. Currently the Natural Heritage Advisory Council operates within the Department of State Lands (DSL) as part of the Natural Heritage Program. The essential functions of the Natural Heritage Program include the advisory council, Natural Heritage Data Bank, Natural Heritage Plan, registration of natural heritage conservation areas, and distribution of Section 6 Endangered Species Act federal grants. The administrative functions related to the Natural Heritage Data Bank and Natural Heritage Plan is carried out by the Institute for Natural Resources within Oregon State University (OSU). The measure is effective January 1, 2012.

The transfer of this program is included in a policy package within the DSL and OPRD agency request budgets. DSL states that approximately \$20,827 of Other Funds in 2011-13 biennium are related to the administrative costs of the Natural Heritage Advisory Council and production of the Natural Areas Plan and are transferred to OSU. Additionally, approximately \$129,096 of Federal Funds in 2011-13 is related to the distribution of Section 6 Endangered Species Act federal grants. No changes are anticipated in the administration of the program as a result of its transfer to OPRD.

OPRD states that the agency would request Lottery Fund limitation at the equivalent level of Other Funds budgeted for the program within DSL. OPRD estimates \$27,769 of Lottery Funds in 2013-15 for maintaining the Natural Heritage Data Bank and Natural Heritage Plan through OSU and \$172,128 in Federal Funds for the distribution of Section 6 grants.