

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 626 - A

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Prepared by: John Terpening
Reviewed by: Paul Siebert
Date: 5-27-2011

Measure Description:

Directs State Department of Fish and Wildlife to undertake study of creating Quality Fresh Waters Program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

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 directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife to undertake a study of creating the Quality Fresh Waters Program. The program shall focus on fish management practices, research projects, protection and restoration of fish habitat, and enforcement efforts and how to best implement these focus areas within the context of the program. The Department is directed to study the feasibility of increasing fees for angling licenses to nonresidents as well as other proposals. The Department is directed to report on the results of the study to the interim legislative committees on environment and natural resources on or before November 1, 2012. The measure is repealed on January 2, 2014.

The measure specifically states that the Department is to undertake this study using existing resources without reallocation of resources and at no additional cost. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that this language would make it impossible for the Department to carry out the study as required. The level of effort required by the Department to undertake a study would require a reallocation of existing staff resources and the Department's staff may have costs related to the study.

LFO's protocol is to issue an explanatory fiscal impact statement providing an analysis of the expenditures, revenues, staffing, and organizational effects of implementing the provisions of the bill.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) plans to allocate the anticipated workload of this study to five existing positions totaling 0.42 FTE at a total cost of \$74,879.

ODFW states that to undertake this study with existing staff, other activities would be reprioritized and either deferred to a later time or no longer conducted, including some of the annual monitoring of fisheries, conducting angler survey's, analysis of current fisheries, responding to public inquiries on various fisheries matters, and attending various coordination meetings. Additionally, technical fisheries management assistance and coordination with Fish Districts, policy planning and development, and coordination with other state and federal agencies would need to be deferred or discontinued.