

**HB 3451**

**Relating to Oceangoing Research Vessel Program**

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HB 3451 establishes the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program at Oregon State University to conduct certain marine research, as well as creates the Research Vessel Council and specifies member composition. The bill appropriates \$300,000 General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Oregon University System in the 2013-15 biennium.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 3451 be amended and reported out do pass, as amended.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Gomberg  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Johnson

**Revenue:**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and be Printed B-Engrossed

**Vote:**

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

**Prepared By:** Tim Walker, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Meeting Date:** June 12, 2013

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** HB 3451 establishes the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program at Oregon State University to conduct certain marine research as well as creates the Research Vessel Council and specifies member composition. The bill appropriates \$300,000 million General Fund to Oregon University System for distribution to Oregon State University in the 2013-15 biennium.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Composition of Research Vessel Council
- Support of the local community for the program
- Economic effects on the local economy

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Modifies the appropriation language to reflect appropriating \$300,000 General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for allocation to the Oregon University System.

**BACKGROUND:** The National Science Foundation owns a fleet of research vessels stationed in multiple coastal states. The operation of these vessels is usually funded by federal funding, state funding and research grants. These vessels perform a variety of research, normally in conjunction with state universities, in the immediately surrounding coastal waters.

At this time, Oregon is the only state with a federally-funded research vessel, the RV Oceanus, which does not designate any state funding for research vessel operations. House Bill 3451 would appropriate funding for operation of federally-funded research vessel and create a program at Oregon State University to utilize the vessel.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 3451 B**

Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Krista McDowell  
Reviewed by: Susie Jordan, Linda Gilbert, Paul Siebert  
Date: 6/5/2013

**Measure Description:**

Establishes Oceangoing Research Vessel Program to conduct certain marine research.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon University System (OUS)

**Summary of Expenditure Impact for Oregon University System (OUS):**

<b>Summary of Expenditure Impact</b>		
	<b>2013-15 Biennium</b>	<b>2015-17 Biennium</b>
General Fund	\$300,000	\$600,000
Lottery Funds		
Other Funds		
Federal Funds		
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
Positions		
FTE		

**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:**

HB 3451-1 establishes the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program at Oregon State University to conduct certain marine research as well as creates the Research Vessel Council and specifies member composition. The bill appropriates \$300,000 million General Fund (GF) to Oregon University System (OUS) for distribution to Oregon State University in the 2013-15 biennium.

Support for the establishment, staffing, supplies and cost of preparing an annual report for the Legislative Assembly by the Research Vessel Council are estimated to cost \$30,000 GF for the 2013-15 biennium and \$30,000 GF for the 2015-17 biennium. Additionally, 10 days of ship use, which includes fuel, supplies, and labor, will cost \$300,000 GF during the 2013-15 biennium. OUS anticipates an additional 20 days of ship operations to complete future research which results in an estimated cost of \$600,000 GF for the 2015-17 biennium.

Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that with the passage of SB 242 (2011), which changed OUS status to a non-state agency, OUS no longer is eligible for direct appropriation from the General Fund.

Instead, all future appropriations for use by OUS must be made to a state agency, such as Department of Administrative Services, for transfer to OUS.

Minimal fiscal impact, associated with the passage of this bill, is reported by the following affected agencies: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). While this individual measure has a minimal impact to the previously stated agencies, an agency may incur a net fiscal impact greater than minimal depending on the cumulative impact of all measures enacted into law that affect the agency.

The –A2 amendment changes the appropriation language to reflect appropriating \$300,000 General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for allocation to Oregon University System. LFO anticipates that OSU will pay for the administrative costs for support of the Research Vessel Council out of the administrative costs allowed under Federal Grants.

HB 3451-A2  
(LC 3726)  
6/5/13 (DRG/ps)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
A-ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3451**

1 On page 2 of the printed A-engrossed bill, delete lines 27 through 30 and  
2 insert:

3 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**  
4 **ation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administra-**  
5 **tive Services for allocation to the Oregon University System, for the**  
6 **biennium beginning July 1, 2013, out of the General Fund, the amount**  
7 **of \$300,000 for distribution to Oregon State University for the purpose**  
8 **of carrying out the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this 2013 Act.”.**

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