

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 737 - A

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

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

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Measure Description:

Establishes Oregon Ocean Work Group for purpose of adopting Nearshore Strategic Plan.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Department of State Lands, Other State Agencies

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 bill establishes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and members to be appointed by the State Land Board. Members of the trust are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses. Duties of the trust include the promotion of scientific ocean and costal research, in addition to the establishment of a competitive grant program to fund research and monitoring related to Oregon’s ocean and coast. The bill establishes the Oregon Ocean Science Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest in the fund shall be credited to the fund, and monies are continuously appropriated to the trust. The Department of State Lands (DSL) is directed to provide clerical, technical, and management personnel as needed to serve the trust.

Provisions in the bill permit the newly established fund to accept revenues from grants, donations, contributions, gifts, monies appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, and monies from the states distributive share from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that there is no history of any revenues being generated from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Therefore for the purposes of this analysis an indeterminate amount of General Fund (GF) appropriation is assumed to fund the expenses associated with supporting the trust as well as grants monies that the trust will be awarding.

Support for the trust is predominately estimated to be provided by three requested permanent DSL positions. One half-time Natural Resource Specialist 4 is needed to help draft rules and policies for the establishment of the trust, coordinate rulemaking and communication efforts with trust members and the public, provide expertise and assistance in writing applications seeking moneys for the fund, and develop and implement the competitive grant program. One half-time Administrative Specialist 1 is needed to assist with rulemaking and grant program implementation, as well as provide other administrative support and to coordinate trust meetings. One half-time Accountant 1 is needed to manage and reconcile the fund. These positions are estimated at 1.25 FTE in the 2013-15 biennium at a cost of \$205,217 GF and 1.50 FTE in the 2015-17 biennium at a cost of \$242,189 GF.

It is not clear what additional agencies, under Section 1 (9), will provide support to the trust; nor is it determinable if this support is financial in nature or some form of consulting work- which may impact agencies workloads and FTE. Therefore the fiscal impact to other state agencies is indeterminate at this time.