

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Establishes Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies to identify options for providing state natural resources agencies with stable or increased funding. Directs task force to report to Governor or committee of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources not later than February 1, 2016.

Sunsets task force December 31, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies;  
3 and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Funding State Natural Re-**  
6 **sources Agencies is established, consisting of not fewer than nine or**  
7 **more than 15 members appointed as follows:**

8 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two nonvoting mem-**  
9 **bers from among the members of the Senate. The two members ap-**  
10 **pointed under this paragraph may not be from the same political**  
11 **party.**

12 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two**  
13 **nonvoting members from among the members of the House of Repre-**  
14 **sentatives. The two members appointed under this paragraph may not**  
15 **be from the same political party.**

16 (c) **The Governor shall appoint not fewer than five or more than 11**  
17 **members. In making appointments to the task force, the Governor**  
18 **shall endeavor, to the extent the Governor deems practicable, to ap-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 point members representative of interests of forest and agricultural  
2 landowners, the environmental conservation community, local gov-  
3 ernment, Indian tribes, industry, the recreation business community,  
4 hunting and fishing interests and the general public.

5 (2) The task force shall identify funding options that would provide  
6 stable or increased funding for state natural resources agencies. The  
7 task force shall consider the option of requiring that regulatory fees  
8 cover all costs of state natural resources agencies. As part of the op-  
9 tion identification process, the task force shall consider:

10 (a) The role of General Fund moneys in management of the natural  
11 resources of this state for the benefit of all Oregonians;

12 (b) Whether individual beneficiaries of state natural resources  
13 agency services should have greater financial responsibility for the  
14 services they receive;

15 (c) Options for preventing new state revenues from being used for  
16 purposes other than funding the state natural resources agencies;

17 (d) Options for ensuring that General Fund support is not reduced  
18 as a result of new services provided by state natural resources agen-  
19 cies that would require new revenue streams;

20 (e) The practicability of proposed options, including but not limited  
21 to the logistics of implementation and administration;

22 (f) Whether the proposed options will result in stable or increased  
23 funding for the state natural resources agencies; and

24 (g) The equity of proposed options, including but not limited to eq-  
25 uity among:

26 (A) Rural and urban areas;

27 (B) Particular communities; and

28 (C) Consumptive and conservation interests.

29 (3) The task force may accept comments and exhibits from public  
30 and private sources.

31 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes

1 a quorum for the transaction of business.

2 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-  
3 jority of the voting members of the task force.

4 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-  
5 person.

6 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority  
7 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

8 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the  
9 Governor or a representative of the Governor.

10 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of  
11 the task force.

12 (10) The task force shall submit a report describing the identified  
13 funding options in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may in-  
14 clude recommendations for legislation, to the Governor or an interim  
15 or regular committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural  
16 resources no later than February 1, 2016.

17 (11) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall pro-  
18 vide staff support to the task force.

19 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legis-  
20 lative Assembly are not entitled to compensation, but may be reim-  
21 bursed for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by  
22 them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and  
23 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in  
24 performing functions of the task force shall be paid out of funds ap-  
25 propriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for  
26 purposes of the task force.

27 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are  
28 directed to assist the task force in the performance of its duties and,  
29 to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish  
30 such information and advice as the members of the task force consider  
31 necessary to perform their duties.

1       **(14) For purposes of this section, “state natural resources**  
2 **agencies” means the State Department of Agriculture, the State De-**  
3 **partment of Fish and Wildlife, the Columbia River Gorge Commission,**  
4 **the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Forestry De-**  
5 **partment, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries,**  
6 **the State Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Land**  
7 **Conservation and Development, the Department of State Lands, the**  
8 **State Marine Board, the Water Resources Department and the Oregon**  
9 **Watershed Enhancement Board.**

10       **SECTION 2.** **Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31,**  
11 **2016.**

12       **SECTION 3.** **This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**  
13 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**  
14 **clared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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