

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 952

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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

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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies to identify options for providing state natural resources agencies with stable or increased funding.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Columbia River Gorge Commission (CRGC), Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Forestry, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Water Resources Department, Legislative Assembly

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:

Senate Bill 952 with the -1 amendment establishes the Task Force on Funding Natural Resources Agencies charged with identifying funding options that would provide stable and sustainable funding necessary for the proper functioning of state natural resources agencies. The task force is required to submit a report to a committee of the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2016. The – 1 amendment clarifies the charge of the task force. The – 1 amendment does not change the original fiscal determination.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

The fiscal impact of this bill on DAS is indeterminate. The bill requires DAS to provide staff support to the task force, and reimburse non-legislative members of the task force for travel and other expenses incurred in their performance of task force duties out of funds appropriated to DAS for purposes of the task force. However, the bill does not appropriate additional funds to DAS, which seems to suggest that expenses for reimbursement and staff support are intended to come from the agency's Legislatively Approved Budget, which does not contemplate expenditures specifically for this purpose.

The bill allows the task force to have no fewer than nine and no more than 15 members. The bill allows the task force to meet at times and places specified by the call of the chair or a majority of the voting members. The fiscal impact of supporting the task force and reimbursing members is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force, as well as the final number of members, the number of meetings, and geographic location of task force members.

Legislative Assembly

Four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Although the 2015-17 Legislative Branch budget contains funds allocated for interim committee and task force, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2015-17 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Natural Resources Agencies

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have minimal impact on these agencies. The bill defines state natural resources agencies to include the Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Columbia River Gorge Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Forestry Department, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Department of State Lands, the State Marine Board, the Water Resources Department, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. These agencies expect to play a role in furnishing the task force with existing available data, information, advice, and other support. The fiscal impact of this bill on these agencies will depend on what kind of assistance the task force requests from each agency.