

## FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 202 - 5

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:

Requires establishment of Oregon Academy of Sciences as nonprofit corporation to serve as principal source of scientific investigation, examination and reporting on scientific questions referred to academy by Governor, Governor's designee or Legislative Assembly.

### Government Unit(s) Affected:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HEC), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Agencies

### 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 202 with the – 5 amendment abolishes the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, and establishes the Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources charged with evaluating and assessing the need for independent scientific review in Oregon and to make appropriate recommendations. The bill requires the task force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2016. The task force sunsets on January 2, 2019. The bill contains an emergency clause, and takes effect on passage.

### Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

The fiscal impact of this bill on HECC is indeterminate. The bill requires the Institute for Natural Resources within Oregon State University to provide staff support to the task force, and reimburse the members of the task force for travel and other expenses incurred in their performance of task force duties out of funds appropriated to the Institute for Natural Resources for purposes of the task force. However, the bill does not appropriate additional funds to the Institute for Natural Resources, which would seem to suggest that expenses for reimbursement and staff support are intended to come from its Legislatively Approved Budget, which does not contemplate expenditures specifically for this purpose.

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 this bill on HECC is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force, as well as the number of meetings, and geographic location of task force members. At a minimum, HECC estimates the Institute for Natural Resources would need to cover staff time, meeting and reimbursement expenses, estimated at \$108,907.

### Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

The bill abolishes the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST). The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a natural resources grant-making agency. In OWEB's base budget, under Policy Option Package Initiative 110 (Program Enhancement) \$237,826 Lottery Funds are dedicated to an independent science review entity. The base budget also eliminates \$237,608 of Federal funds that were to be utilized for IMST.

### Natural Resources Agencies

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have minimal impact to state natural resources agencies. The bill requires the task force to have non-voting members representing state natural resources agencies. This fiscal assumes these agencies will reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the task force.