

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

MEASURE: HB 2207 A

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/19/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways
And Means.

Meeting Dates: 03/12, 03/19

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires discharged ballast water to be treated in manner pursuant to rules adopted by Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). Authorizes EQC to adopt by rule standards and procedures for implementing alternative ballast water management strategies for vessels with empty ballast tanks that enter waters of state. Requires civil penalties collected under state laws regulating discharge of ballast water into waters of state be deposited in Invasive Species Control Account for use in carrying out purposes of account.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Regulatory approaches of neighboring states in regard to preventing invasive species from entering waters of the state via discharges from ballast tanks
- Benefits of consistency among states and ports in an approach to regulation
- Competitive advantages and disadvantages of differing regulatory approaches
- Examples of on-going threats and need for vigilance in inspections and sound use of regulatory tools
- Lack of funding for inspections; low percentage of ships actually being inspected
- Pros and Cons of new treatment systems and the new federal regulations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Eliminates provisions.

BACKGROUND:

Ocean-going vessels pick up and discharge ballast water for the purpose of providing for better ship stability. Because water from foreign ports may be used to fill ballast tanks, the discharge of a ship's ballast water in Oregon ports and harbors has the potential to introduce aquatic, non-indigenous species into state waterways, potentially resulting in ecological damage, economic costs and/or human health concerns. Since 2007, the Department of Environmental Quality has had the dedicated resources to implement and enforce ballast water management regulations in an effort to reduce the risk of introducing new aquatic, invasive species.

House Bill 2207A would authorize the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt standards and procedures for implementing alternative ballast water management including appropriate use of treatment technology and strategies to mitigate risks from vessels with empty ballast tanks that enter waters of the state.