

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/20/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 03/18, 04/20**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Edwards, Olsen, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Thomsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources (Task Force) consisting of up to 15 members appointed by Governor from specified sectors and universities. Requires Task Force to assess need for independent scientific review in Oregon and make recommendations, including which entities are best suited to conduct or coordinate scientific review. Requires Task Force to make certain considerations to ensure entity will provide scientific review that is independent. Requires Task Force to make recommendations regarding structure and process to be used by entity in making scientific review. Abolishes Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team on January 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team
- Process for acquiring research
- Funding for research requests
- Agencies' role in providing policy research

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Establishes Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources (Task Force) consisting of up to 15 members appointed by Governor from specified sectors and universities. Requires Task Force to assess need for independent scientific review in Oregon and make recommendations, including which entities are best suited to conduct or coordinate scientific review. Requires Task Force to make certain considerations to ensure entity will provide scientific review that is independent. Requires Task Force to make recommendations regarding structure and process to be used by entity in making scientific review.

BACKGROUND:

The Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) was established by the Legislature in 1997 (Senate Bill 924). The IMST is a scientific review panel charged with advising the State of Oregon on matters of science related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. These matters include fish recovery, water quality improvements, and enhancing watershed health.

Senate Bill 202A would abolish the IMST and create the Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources to assess the need for independent scientific review in Oregon.