

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water**

**MEASURE: SB 261**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Gomberg**

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/12/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/28, 05/12

**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Clem, Gilliam, Gomberg, Helm, Post, Witt

Exc: 1 - McLane

**Prepared By:** Ian Davidson, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases ballast water trip fee from \$70 to \$88.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Dangers to Oregon waterways if non-indigenous species are introduced
- Fee was last increased in 2011
- Fee increase helps maintain current service levels

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The discharge of ballast water, used to provide vessel stability, may introduce aquatic non-indigenous species into Oregon waterways, potentially resulting in ecological damage, economic costs and or human health concerns. State regulations on ballast water management require that all regulated vessels submit ballast water management reports to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at least 24 hours prior to entry into the state. All regulated vessels are subject to boarding, inspection and ballast water sampling verification by state inspectors. In 2011, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 81 which assessed a \$70 vessel arrival fee. Revenue generated from the fee provides support for DEQ's ballast water program efforts, including report monitoring, compliance verification and technical support services.

Senate Bill 261 would increase the ballast water trip fee to \$88.