

Senate Bill 24

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Natural Resource Agency Consolidation. Requires task force to report findings and recommendations to interim legislative committees on environment and natural resources on or before September 15, 2016.

Sunsets on December 31, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the consolidation of state agencies involved in the management of natural resources; and
declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Natural Resource Agency Consolidation is established, consisting of 11 members appointed as follows:

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members who represent state agencies involved in the management of natural resources.

(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members who represent state agencies involved in the management of natural resources.

(c) The Governor shall appoint:

(A) One person who served on the Governor's Reset Cabinet established by Executive Order 09-13; and

(B) One representative from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

(2) The appointing authorities shall appoint task force members no later than 60 days after the effective date of this 2015 Act.

(3) The task force shall study the benefits of abolishing or consolidating state agencies involved in the management of natural resources, including:

(a) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife;

(b) The Department of State Lands;

(c) The Land Use Board of Appeals;

(d) The Water Resources Department;

(e) The State Department of Agriculture;

(f) The Columbia River Gorge Commission;

(g) The Oregon Forest Resources Institute;

(h) The State Forestry Department;

(i) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries;

(j) The Department of Environmental Quality;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (k) The Department of Land Conservation and Development;

2 (L) The State Marine Board;

3 (m) The State Parks and Recreation Department; and

4 (n) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

5 (4) In studying the abolition or consolidation of state agencies involved in the man-
6 agement of natural resources, the task force shall consider how the abolition or consol-
7 idation would further the goals of:

8 (a) Coordinating more effective and efficient state agencies;

9 (b) Improving services to residents of this state;

10 (c) Consolidating regional boundaries for state agency service and program delivery;

11 (d) Sharing resources and services between state agencies; and

12 (e) Increasing the accountability and performance of state agencies.

13 (5) The task force may consult with persons who served on the Governor's Reset Cabinet
14 established by Executive Order 09-13.

15 (6) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
16 transaction of business.

17 (7) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
18 members of the task force.

19 (8) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

20 (9) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
21 ment to become immediately effective.

22 (10) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
23 or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

24 (11) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

25 (12) The task force shall report its findings and include recommendations for legislation
26 to the interim committees on environment and natural resources on or before September 15,
27 2016.

28 (13) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall provide staff support to the
29 task force.

30 (14) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed
31 for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by them in the performance of
32 their official duties in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for ex-
33 penses shall be paid out of funds appropriated to:

34 (a) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services for a member of the task force
35 who is not employed by a state agency involved in the management of natural resources; or

36 (b) The state agency that employs the member for a member of the task force who is
37 employed by a state agency involved in the management of natural resources.

38 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
39 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
40 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
41 consider necessary to perform their duties.

42 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.

43 SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
44 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
45 on its passage.

