

Senate Bill 952

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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 Funding State Natural Resources Agencies to identify options for providing state natural resources agencies with stable or increased funding. Directs task force to report to Governor or committee of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources not later than February 1, 2016.

Sunsets task force December 31, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies; and declaring an emer-
3 gency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies is estab-**
6 **lished, consisting of not fewer than nine or more than 15 members appointed as follows:**

7 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two nonvoting members from among the**
8 **members of the Senate. The two members appointed under this paragraph may not be from**
9 **the same political party.**

10 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two nonvoting members**
11 **from among the members of the House of Representatives. The two members appointed un-**
12 **der this paragraph may not be from the same political party.**

13 (c) **The Governor shall appoint not fewer than five or more than 11 members. In making**
14 **appointments to the task force, the Governor shall endeavor, to the extent the Governor**
15 **deems practicable, to appoint members representative of interests of forest and agricultural**
16 **landowners, the environmental conservation community, local government, Indian tribes,**
17 **industry, the recreation business community, hunting and fishing interests and the general**
18 **public.**

19 (2) **The task force shall identify funding options that would provide stable or increased**
20 **funding for state natural resources agencies. The task force shall consider the option of re-**
21 **quiring that regulatory fees cover all costs of state natural resources agencies. As part of**
22 **the option identification process, the task force shall consider:**

23 (a) **The role of General Fund moneys in management of the natural resources of this**
24 **state for the benefit of all Oregonians;**

25 (b) **Whether individual beneficiaries of state natural resources agency services should**
26 **have greater financial responsibility for the services they receive;**

27 (c) **Options for preventing new state revenues from being used for purposes other than**
28 **funding the state natural resources agencies;**

29 (d) **Options for ensuring that General Fund support is not reduced as a result of new**

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 services provided by state natural resources agencies that would require new revenue
2 streams;

3 (e) The practicability of proposed options, including but not limited to the logistics of
4 implementation and administration;

5 (f) Whether the proposed options will result in stable or increased funding for the state
6 natural resources agencies; and

7 (g) The equity of proposed options, including but not limited to equity among:

8 (A) Rural and urban areas;

9 (B) Particular communities; and

10 (C) Consumptive and conservation interests.

11 (3) The task force may accept comments and exhibits from public and private sources.

12 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
13 transaction of business.

14 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
15 members of the task force.

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

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

19 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the Governor or a repre-
20 sentative of the Governor.

21 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

22 (10) The task force shall submit a report describing the identified funding options in the
23 manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the
24 Governor or an interim or regular committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural
25 resources no later than February 1, 2016.

26 (11) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall provide staff support to the
27 task force.

28 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
29 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
30 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and
31 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
32 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Oregon Department of Ad-
33 ministrative Services for purposes of the task force.

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

38 (14) For purposes of this section, "state natural resources agencies" means the State
39 Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Columbia River
40 Gorge Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Forestry Depart-
41 ment, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, the State Parks and Recre-
42 ation Department, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Department
43 of State Lands, the State Marine Board, the Water Resources Department and the Oregon
44 Watershed Enhancement Board.

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

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

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