

HB 2266 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Eliminates requirement to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance as of July 1 each year from Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to Hatchery Construction Fund. Specifies that Hatchery Construction Fund (Fund) consists of money appropriated to Fund by Legislative Assembly and moneys received by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for purposes of fund in form of gifts, grants, bequests, endowments, or donations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Hatchery Research Center history and projects
- Implementing research ideas at hatcheries
- Different fund for hatchery maintenance

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes requirement that moneys from Hatchery Construction Fund be used to make improvements to hatchery facilities. . Removes requirement to transfer unexpended and unobligated balance from Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to Fish Endowment Subaccount after January 2, 2026. Directs such funds to be deposited into Hatchery Construction Fund. Removes requirement to transfer unexpended and unobligated balance from Hatchery Construction Fund to Fish Endowment Subaccount after January 2, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) opened in October 2005 with the express purpose of helping fishery managers understand and manage the interactions between hatchery and wild fish. The OHRC is a cooperative research project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. House Bill 3012 B (2015) established the OHRC fund and established a surcharge on angling licenses and an additional commercial ad valorem catch fee, requiring moneys to be used for research projects recommended by the OHRC. The bill required any unexpended and unobligated balance in the OHRC fund as of July 1 each year to be transferred into the Hatchery Construction Fund, which was also established by the 2015 bill.

House Bill 2266 would eliminate the requirement to transfer the remaining balance from the OHRC fund to the Hatchery Construction Fund. It would also allow legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, bequests, endowments, or donations to be deposited into the Hatchery Construction Fund.