

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2968

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule pilot program for single, coordinated process for parties to meet certain federal and state requirements for, and to obtain certain releases from liability for, cleanup of hazardous waste.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Business Development Department (Business Oregon), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Summary of Revenue Impact: Department of Environmental Quality

	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium
Other Funds	774,134	187,725
Total Funds	\$774,134	\$187,725

Analysis:

HB 2968 requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to adopt, by rule, a pilot program for allowing parties the opportunity to conduct voluntary removal or remedial actions at a facility related to the cleanup of hazardous waste. The pilot program must be designed in such a way that releases the parties involved from liability under ORS 465.255, 466.640, and 468B.310; and enables the parties involved to satisfy the requirements of, and to obtain certain releases from potential liability under applicable federal laws. The bill requires DEQ to coordinate the pilot program with the Oregon Business Development Department, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, the bill requires DEQ to submit a report on the implementation of the program no later than September 15, 2022.

Policy work related to this program, conducted by DEQ, is currently supported by a 206% surcharge on actual labor costs for work on cleanup projects that are billed to responsible parties. DEQ has estimated that complete setup of the program will take approximately two years, and involve the work of a Natural Resource Specialist 4 and Operations and Policy Analyst 3. As a result, DEQ has indicated that it will need to increase the aforementioned surcharge by 19% in order to cover the costs of the additional work. Based on the proposed 19% surcharge increase, the revenue impact to DEQ is \$774,134 for the 2017-19 biennium, and \$187,725 for the 2019-21 biennium.

The bill has an indeterminate impact to the Business Development Department.