

## **SB 198 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources**

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**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/22

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates the Oregon Independent Science Review Board (Board) consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor. Identifies member attributes. Sets member term of office at four years and stipulates that members serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Lists Board duties. Establishes Independent Scientific Review Secretariat (Secretariat) as an administrative section in the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University and lists duties of Secretariat. Directs Governor to appoint a Secretariat Administrator who serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Requires Board to receive, evaluate and direct Secretariat to convene scientific panels to address questions from state agencies, local governments and private persons for independent scientific review of complex, multidisciplinary natural resource issues that require the involvement of multiple agencies. Establishes Independent Scientific Review Fund. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 2020 (2015) established the Task Force on Independent Science Reviews for Natural Resources (Task Force) to evaluate and assess the need for independent science reviews in Oregon and to make recommendations to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees. Senate Bill 202 specifically charged the Task Force to: (1) assess the need for independent science review in Oregon; (2) make recommendations on one or more entities that are best situated to conduct or coordinate independent science reviews, if the Task Force determines that there is a need for independent science review in the state; (3) make recommendations on whether the entities identified would need legislative authority to act as independent science review bodies for Oregon; and, (4) make recommendations regarding the structure and function of the process. The final report of the Task Force was submitted to the Legislature in September 2016 and can be found here:

[http://inr.oregonstate.edu/sites/inr.oregonstate.edu/files/sb202\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://inr.oregonstate.edu/sites/inr.oregonstate.edu/files/sb202_final_report.pdf).

Senate Bill 198 would create Oregon Independent Science Review Board.