

**HB 2327 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Carrier:** Rep. McLain

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**Action Date:** 02/16/17  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 8-0-1-0  
**Yeas:** 8 - Clem, Esquivel, McKeown, McLain, Power, Smith DB, Sprenger, Witt  
**Exc:** 1 - Barreto  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires recipients of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grants to maintain liability insurance in connection with grant. Guidelines for liability coverage to be established by OWEB in consultation with grant recipient. Removes Healthy Streams Partnership from Oregon Plan statutes. Adds representative of United States Fish & Wildlife Service as non-voting member of OWEB. Ends Oregon Department of Administrative Services' provision of liability insurance to OWEB grant recipients. Removes requirement for OWEB to provide geographic information systems data on activities under Oregon Plan. Eliminates requirement for certain agencies to provide reports for OWEB to post to centralized repository. Changes due date of Oregon Plan Biennial Report to Governor and Legislative Assembly to January 15 of even-numbered years.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Liability coverage for grantees
- Healthy Streams Partnership statute
- OWEB board composition
- Record keeping and reporting requirements

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Changes due date for Oregon Plan Biennial Report to Governor and Legislative Assembly from January 15 of odd-numbered years to January 15 of even-numbered years.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. Grant recipients are required to obtain liability insurance for projects funded through OWEB moneys. Liability coverage offered to grantees through the Department of Administration Services (DAS) is limited. House Bill 2327A would repeal language in statute that DAS may provide liability coverage for grantees at the expense of OWEB, instead requiring grant recipients to obtain liability insurance at levels commensurate with grant activities, the cost of which could be included in the grant.

House Bill 2327A would allow a representative from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which helps fund and implement watershed enhancement programs across the state, to serve as a non-voting member of OWEB.

House Bill 2327A would remove the requirement for agencies to forward watershed enhancement-related reports to OWEB to include in a centralized repository, instead relying on the reports' availability online. The measure would remove a requirement for OWEB to report on watershed and key habitat conditions in each drainage basin in the state due to a lack of data or resources to report in a geographically consistent manner.

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House Bill 2327A would also allow the last 6 months of a biennium to be included in the Oregon Plan report to the Governor and Legislative Assembly.