

SB 867 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 03/29/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to General Government and Accountability then to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley

Nays: 1 - Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Girod

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a 17-member Task Force on Maritime Sector Workforce Development to study and develop a description of maritime sector and maritime sector workforce in Oregon and to develop recommendations for the State Workforce Investment Board to incorporate consideration of the maritime sector into the statewide workforce investment system plan. Directs the Task Force to report to appropriate legislative committees and Workforce Investment Board by September 15, 2018. Declares state policy to promote coordinated provision of education, employment, economic development and job training to support the maritime sector in Oregon. Task Force sunsets on December 31, 2018. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of maritime sector to coastal communities and economy
- Workforce training for maritime sector jobs
- Importance of studying the maritime sector
- High wages paid to maritime sector workers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Deletes enterprises engaged in offshore oil and gas exploration from definition of "maritime sector."

BACKGROUND:

Oregon boasts a system of 23 public ports, including nine on the Columbia River and 14 coastal ports, which serve as an integral part of Oregon's multimodal freight transportation system. However, the term "maritime sector" encompasses more than just the movement of freight through ports. The state's maritime workforce is made up of not just longshoremen and other workers at ports, but also crew on tugs and tow vessels, naval architects and marine engineers, persons engaged in shipbuilding and repair, offshore exploration and support, marine manufacturing, the wave energy industry, commercial and recreational fishers, crabbers and processors, and Oregonians who work in the maritime sector around the globe.