

**HB 4004 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Prepared By:** Sione Filimoehala, LPRO Analyst

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

**Meeting Dates:** 2/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Designates areas that abut or travel navigable waters, inland watersheds, or drinking water intakes over which trains consisting of 25 or more railcars transport oil as High Hazard Train Routes. Expands definition of “oil” to include bitumen, synthetic crude oil, and natural gas well condensate. Includes (1) the prevention of oil spills into inland rivers and streams, (2) the prevention of spills from railroad cars, and (3) the prevention of spills along High Hazard Train Routes into declared intent of contingency planning statute. Directs railroads that own or operate a High Hazard Train Route to develop an oil spill prevention and emergency response contingency plan. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to adopt rules defining standards for the preparation of High Hazard Train Route contingency plans and define oil spill response zones along High Hazard Train Routes. Directs DEQ to provide copies of contingency plans to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, and federally recognized Indian tribes prior to approval or modification. Establishes the High Hazard Train Route Oil Spill Prevention Fund. Continuously appropriates monies from the fund to DEQ for the purposes of (1) review of High Hazard Train Route contingency plans, (2) maintenance of response capabilities, and (3) review and revision of portions of the oil spill response plans related to sensitive areas. Takes effect 91 days following adjournment.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under current Oregon Law, railways are have no added scrutiny regarding oil spill response requirements. House Bill 4004 defines certain railways as High Hazard Train Routes. House Bill 4004 requires railroads transporting oil and operating within High Hazard Train Routes to develop contingency plans regarding oil spills. House Bill 4004 also establishes the High Hazard Train Route Oil Spill Prevention Fund which provides money to the Department of Environmental Quality to review contingency plans, maintain response capacities, and review and revise response plans.