

SB 256 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 1/29, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Amends and adds section 1, chapter 11, Oregon Laws 2010 to ORS Chapter 274. Prohibits the Department of State Lands from leasing any of the submerged and submersible lands with the territorial sea for the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or sulfur or activities in furtherance thereof. States measure provisions are not intended to impair or supercede any conflicting federal law applicable within the territorial sea.

No fiscal impact

No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current moratorium is set to expire on January 2, 2020
- Importance of ocean to coastal economy and communities
- Re-opening of lease opportunities in federal waters
- State jurisdiction in territorial sea

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The “territorial sea” is defined in ORS 196.405 as the waters and seabed extending three geographical miles seaward from the coastline in conformance with federal law. The 2007 legislature adopted a prohibition on leasing in the territorial sea for purposes of exploration, development or production of oil, gas, or sulfur that sunset on January 2, 2010. (Chapter 521, Oregon Laws 2007) The 2010 legislature extended this prohibition until January 1, 2020. (Chapter 11, Oregon Laws 2010)

Senate Bill 256 would prohibit the Department of State Lands from leasing any submerged or submersible lands in the Oregon territorial sea for the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or sulfur or activities in furtherance thereof.