

HB 2829 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

Prepared By: Kailey Kornhauser, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. Appropriates moneys in Fund to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to be expended on activities that serve to protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon including: implementing conservation programs and strategies; improving engagement of public in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities, improving educational outreach and engagement of public, including diverse and underserved communities; joint projects with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department or other state agencies as recommended by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee; other conservation, management, research, habitat improvement, enforcement, outdoor recreation, or education activities. Establishes that Fund consist of moneys appropriate to Department for deposit in fund, and gifts, grants, contributions, or other donations from public or private sources.

Establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (Committee) as an advisory committee to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) and the Department. Requires Commission to determine number of members and geographical representation of Committee. Requires the Governor to appoint members of Committee. Requires Committee to review Department policy regarding use of Fund moneys and make recommendations to Commission and Department regarding use of fund moneys. Establishes that members of the Committee may not receive compensation for service, but travel and other expenses may be reimbursed. Requires the Department and Committee to jointly submit biennial report to Legislative Assembly regarding expenditure of moneys deposited in Fund. Appropriates \$17,000,000 from General Fund for deposit in Fund. Establishes that expenditures by Department from Fund are not limited. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2402 establishing a Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife, and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education. The Task Force consisted of 17 voting members of the public and six Ex Officio members. This Task Force developed recommendations in regards to strengthening the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) ability to conserve natural resources, improve hunting and fishing opportunities, and connect Oregonians to nature through outdoor recreation and education opportunities. According to the 2017 report from the Task Force, and Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund would provide resources to improve hunting and fishing, expand opportunities for participation in outdoor recreation, and increase education and outreach.

HB 2829 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 2829 would establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund; appropriate moneys in the Fund to the Department to be expended on activities to protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon; establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee, and require the Advisory Committee to review Department policy regarding use of the Fund money and provide recommendations to the Department, and appropriate \$17,000,000 from the General Fund for deposit in the Fund.