

SB 47 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/21, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Waterway Access Fund (Fund). Appropriates moneys in Fund to the Oregon State Marine Board to award grants for non-motorized boat waterway access, boating safety education, and waterway access for underserved communities. Requires person 14 years of age or older to carry waterway access permit while operating a non-motorized boat. Establishes permit fees and deposit of a portion of each fee into the Fund and remainder into the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund Account. Establishes exemptions from requirement to obtain waterway access permit. Eliminates requirement that person operating a non-motorized boat at least 10 feet or more must purchase Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) permit and stipulates a person operating a sailboat at least 12 feet must purchase AIS permit. Makes violation of requirement to obtain a waterway access permit a Class D violation. Makes conforming amendments to AIS permit statutes. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Add subsequent referral to JWMs

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Exempts from requirement to obtain a waterway access permit (permit) a member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe in Oregon who is engaging in tribal fishing or a tribal ceremony. Requires Marine Board to collaborate with recreation user groups and law enforcement agencies to educate non-motorized boaters about the requirement to obtain a permit. Requires Marine Board to submit two reports to interim legislative committees on implementation of the permit program. Specific report contents. Makes permit requirement operative on August 1, 2020. Authorizes Marine Board to take actions prior to operative date to enable Board to implement permit program on operative date.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Marine Board is charged with regulating boating activities while promoting the multiple use and enjoyment of waters of the state.

Senate Bill 47 would establish the Waterway Access Fund to improve waterway access and promote boating safety education for the non-motorized boating community. The measure would also require a waterway access permit while operating a non-motorized boat, set permit fees, and eliminate the requirement to purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species permit for persons operating a non-motorized boat.