

SB 47 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/10

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 under-served 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. 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; specifies report contents. Makes permit requirement operative on August 1, 2020. Authorizes Marine Board to take actions prior to operative date to enable implementation of permit program on operative date. Makes conforming amendments to AIS permit statutes. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for the small watercraft program
- Cost of permits
- Effect on Aquatic Invasive Species Program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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

SB 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 person operating a non-motorized boat that is greater than 10 feet in length to obtain a waterway access permit, set permit fees, and eliminate the requirement to purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species permit for the same non motorized boat.