

HB 2829 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: John Terpening, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/3

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 (ODFW) 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 appropriated to ODFW for deposit in Fund, as well as 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 ODFW. Requires Commission to determine number of members and geographical representation of Committee. Requires the Governor to appoint members of Committee. Requires Committee to review ODFW policy regarding use of Fund moneys and make recommendations to Commission and ODFW regarding use of Fund moneys. Establishes that Committee members may not receive compensation for service, but travel and other expenses may be reimbursed. Requires the ODFW 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 ODFW from Fund are not limited. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

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 to strengthen the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 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, an Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund would provide resources to improve hunting and fishing, expand opportunities for participation in outdoor recreation, and increase education and outreach.

House Bill 2829 would establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund; appropriate moneys in the Fund to ODFW 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 ODFW policy regarding use of the Fund and provide recommendations to ODFW; and appropriate \$17,000,000 from the General Fund for deposit in the Fund.