FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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Measure Description:

Requires Department of Land Conservation and Development to establish electronic information system to receive, consolidate and organize public record information concerning shellfish mariculture in Oregon.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon State Police (OSP)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

The legislation makes three General Fund (GF) appropriations in the 2019-21 biennium: \$200,000 to the Department of Land Conservation and Development to create an electronic system to store and share public record information related to shellfish mariculture in this state; \$200,000 to the Department of Agriculture for work related to conducting preapplication conferences for oyster, clam or mussel cultivation licensing applicants; \$160,000 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the administration of a community outreach program conducted in cooperation with Indian tribes and the State Police regarding opportunities for recreational harvesting of shellfish.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development will use the funding provided in the bill and existing resources to develop and maintain the system described by the bill. No additional positions or increases in staffing levels are anticipated.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture anticipates that the additional workload contemplated by the bill will require the addition of a natural resource specialist position (0.75 FTE) to meet with and provide assistance to the prospective applicants at a cost of \$171,600 in the 2019-21 biennium and \$223,519 in the 2021-23 biennium.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reports that the appropriation provided in the bill will allow the department to enhance the public outreach and education efforts currently operated by the shellfish division by adding a natural resource specialist position (1.0 FTE) and provide funding for additional website development, signs, brochures, workshops, and special events.

The Department of State Police anticipates that the measure will have a minimal fiscal impact and can be absorbed with existing resources.

While both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fish and Wildlife assume that the additional positions contemplated in the fiscal impact would be ongoing, permanent positions, the appropriations in the measure provide funding only for the 2019-21 biennium.