

SB 261 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/05/19

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bentz, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/26, 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Oregon Coast Aquarium for projects that have been identified as priorities for the aquarium's current capital campaign. Projects to include remodeling the entryway and cafe, improving three galleries, creating a nature play area with a forestry theme, enhancing ocean literacy education programming, and construction and furnishing a marine wildlife rehabilitation center. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Contribution of the aquarium to the coastal economy and Oregonians
- One of three marine wildlife rehabilitation centers on the west coast
- Capital campaign projects

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Newport, Oregon. The aquarium's mission is to create unique and engaging experiences that connect visitors to the Oregon coast and to inspire ocean conservation.

Senate Bill 261 would appropriate funds to the Oregon Coast Aquarium for projects that have been identified as priorities for the aquarium's current capital campaign.