

SB 445 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/12/19

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

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: 2/28, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Invasive Species Council (Council) to report biennially to interim legislative committees concerning Council activities during the previous two years. Revises Council membership to include eight ex-officio voting members, four ex-officio non-voting members, and 10 voting members who must represent a different specified category of interest. Appropriates \$450,000 to the Council for specified purposes, including Council duties and efforts to eradicate or control invasive species.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Invasive Species Council
- Emphasis on prevention given cost of control or eradication

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 570.755 defines "invasive species" to mean "nonnative organisms that cause economic or environmental harm and are capable of spreading to new areas of the state. 'Invasive species' does not include humans, domestic livestock or nonharmful exotic organisms." The 2001 Oregon Legislative Assembly established the Oregon Invasive Species Council (Council) to conduct a comprehensive and coordinated effort to prevent, detect, control, and eliminate invasive species harming the region's economy, health, and natural resources. The responsibilities of the Council include maintaining an invasive species reporting hotline, educating the public about invasive species, developing a statewide plan for invasive species, and providing a grant or loan program for eradication of invasive species.

Senate Bill 445 would require the Council to submit a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly, revise the Council membership, and appropriate funds to the Council.