

HB 2979 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/28/19

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Barreto, Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Witt

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services beginning July, 1, 2019. Distributes appropriation to Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) for use by the AOC to contract with an independent third-party organization to provide private landowners with coordination and interagency liaison services for replacement of tide gates. Establishes that organization provides services for engaging in replacement or repair of tide gates. Establishes priority for tide gates with opening size of four feet or smaller. Declares emergency, effective July, 1 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Tide gate function
- Regulatory processes
- Impact of non-functioning tide gates
- Cost of tide gate repair

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Specifies that Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) may use appropriated moneys to obtain and manage contracted services with an independent third-party organization. Establishes that contracted third-party organizations may provide private landowners with coordination and interagency liaison services for replacement of tide gates. Establishes that services are provided for engaging in replacement or repair of tide gates. Establishes priority for tide gates with opening size of four feet or smaller.

BACKGROUND:

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), tide gates serve to drain tidelands for agricultural or other uses. During low tide, water flows from the drained area to a bay or estuary through the tide gate. At high tide, the level of water holds the door closed, stopping water flow back into the drained area. The Association of Oregon Counties, established in 1906, is a statewide organization representing Oregon's 36 counties.

House Bill 2979 A would appropriate \$250,000 for distribution to the Association of Oregon Counties for contracting an independent third-party organization to provide technical assistance and information regarding tide gates.