

SB 42 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/02/19

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. Refer to Ways and Means. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Bentz, Dembrow, Prozanski, Roblan

Exc: 1 - Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/24, 2/21, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes sunset on certain license and permit surcharges dedicated to fisheries restoration and enhancement program. Modifies requirement that three Restoration and Enhancement Board (R&E Board) members represent the commercial salmon industry. Changes requirement that the R&E Board meet at not more than 120-day intervals to at least four times per biennium. Clarifies requirement that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife use fees collected from salmon ranching permits to monitor the effect and impact of private salmon ranching on Oregon fishery resources. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Uses of revenue
- Concern with removal of sunset on Columbia River endorsements
- Past extensions of restoration and enhancement program sunsets

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes provisions related to Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon legislature established the Restoration and Enhancement Program (R&E Program) in 1989 to improve recreational fishing opportunities and commercial salmon fisheries by restoring state-owned fish hatcheries, expanding hatchery production, enhancing natural fish production, and providing additional public access to fishing waters. Funding for the program comes from angling license fees for recreational and commercial permits and licenses. Under ORS 496.289, the R&E Board is currently required to meet every 120 days. Funding for the R&E Program is set to sunset on December 31, 2019.

Senate Bill 42-B would remove the sunset on the funding for the R&E Program and change the R&E Board meeting requirement from every 120 days to at least four times each biennium.