

HB 2304 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 05/22/19

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

House Vote

Yeas: 7 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, McKeown, McLain, Noble, Witt

Senate Vote

Yeas: 4 - Bentz, Beyer, Frederick, Gelser

Exc: 1 - Boquist

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Alexa Diaz

Meeting Dates: 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows issuance of \$14,422,200 in lottery bond proceeds to finance acquisition and restoration of Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Historic nature of locks system
- Potential economic and tourism benefits of restored locks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes references to Department of State Lands and replaces it with Department of Administrative Services. Specifies amount for lottery bond net proceeds of \$14,422,200.

BACKGROUND:

The Willamette Falls Canal was constructed in the 1870s to allow river traffic to navigate around the 40-foot, horseshoe-shaped basalt ridge between Oregon City and West Linn on the Willamette River. In 1915, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the locks; the locks were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The locks were deemed non-operational in December 2011. Senate Bill 131 (2015) established the Willamette Falls Locks Task Force to gather information related to the lock, including their current and potential future value. In 2017, Senate Bill 256 (2017) created the Willamette Falls Locks Commission, the Willamette Falls Navigation Infrastructure Program, and the Willamette Falls Navigation Infrastructure Program Account.

House Bill 2304-A authorizes the lottery bond proceeds to be issued to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the acquisition and restoration of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks. The measure declares emergency and takes effect July 1, 2019.