SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Requires Department of State Lands to study possibility and potential consequences of making certain changes to implementation of laws regulating removal or fill activities as related to wetlands. Requires department to submit report regarding study to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment and natural resources no later than September 15, 2021. Sunsets January 2, 2022.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to wetlands.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of State Lands shall conduct a study to examine the possibility and potential consequences of making the following changes to the implementation of laws regulating removal or fill activities as related to wetlands:

(a) Narrowing the application of requirements for mitigation of losses of wetland resources to exempt losses of certain wetland resources that are within an urban growth boundary, an urban reserve or an urban unincorporated community, or are otherwise not identified as significant wetland resources in an acknowledged local or regional government inventory under the land use laws applicable to the property where the wetlands are located;

(b) Creating a general permit, general authorization or exemption under the laws regulating removal or fill activities that streamlines mitigation requirements for losses to certain wetlands due to the development of certain housing projects undertaken through partnerships between government and private persons to provide affordable housing;

(c) Increasing the department’s activities related to providing assistance and seeking solutions for persons proposing to develop affordable housing on lands subject to the laws regulating removal or fill activities due to the presence of wetlands; and

(d) Modifying provisions related to mitigation to provide persons subject to the laws regulating removal or fill activities with more options for accomplishing mitigation in a manner that is efficient and that promotes the development of affordable housing.

(2) The department shall submit a report regarding the study required by subsection (1) of this section, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to environment and natural resources in the manner provided under ORS 192.245 no later than September 15, 2021.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2022.