Senate Bill 260

Sponsored by Senator ROBLAN, Representatives GOMBERG, SMITH DB; Senators BURDICK, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GOLDEN, MANNING JR, MONNES ANDERSON, RILEY, TAYLOR, WAGNER, Representatives MCKEOWN, WIPT (Presession filed.)

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 State Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish program for strategic investments in initiatives related to ocean acidification and hypoxia.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for purposes of program.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to ocean chemistry; creating new provisions; amending ORS 196.571; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon is an epicenter for the global manifestation of ocean acidification and hypoxia; and

Whereas the natural seasonal process of upwelling transports corrosive waters into the nearshore and estuaries, causing marine waters within this state's jurisdiction to be especially vulnerable to ocean acidification; and

Whereas ocean acidification, hypoxia and changes in ocean temperature are intensifying; and

Whereas ocean acidification has rich and vibrant wild marine fisheries, including shellfish fisheries; and

Whereas ocean acidification and hypoxia are known to cause mortality and reduced growth and productivity in marine organisms, including in species that form the foundation of the marine food web; and

Whereas negative impacts from ocean acidification, hypoxia or both have already been observed in species that are commercially, culturally and economically important to this state, including oysters, mussels and crabs; and

Whereas Oregon's coastal communities and economies are important to this state and are dependent on a thriving marine ecosystem; and

Whereas Oregon has academic institutions with world-class expertise in ocean issues, including ocean acidification and hypoxia; and

Whereas Oregon has played a leading role in fostering collaborative ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring, research and action; and

Whereas the partnerships between the shellfish industry and university scientists in this state are an example to the nation for building innovative solutions to address ocean acidification and hypoxia; and

Whereas the Ocean Policy Advisory Council has identified ocean acidification as a priority issue for Oregon; and

Whereas the Oregon Ocean Science Trust has identified ocean acidification as a priority issue for research and monitoring funding; and

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in boldfaced type.

LC 2065
Whereas the Oregon Shellfish Task Force established under section 5, chapter 814, Oregon Laws 2015, and the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, through collaboration with Oregon stakeholders, have made recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on strategic actions to address ocean acidification and hypoxia; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. ORS 196.571 is amended to read:

196.571. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Ocean acidification and hypoxia severely endanger the state’s commercially and culturally significant ocean resources; and

(b) Strategic investments are necessary to address the risks and vulnerabilities caused by ocean acidification and hypoxia that threaten the state’s economy and ecosystems.

(2) The Legislative Assembly therefore declares it to be the policy of the state to ensure a coordinated, effective response to ocean acidification and hypoxia. To facilitate efforts that are coordinated and effective, it is the state’s policy to support ocean acidification and hypoxia actions and initiatives that are developed through close collaborations between federal, state and local agencies, academic institutions and commercial industries, among others.

SECTION 2. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, shall by rule establish and implement an ocean acidification and hypoxia strategic investment program. The department shall expend moneys under the program, in the form of grants or allocations, on strategic investments identified by the coordinating council in the following:

(1) Monitoring of key oceanographic and biological indicators of impacts from ocean acidification and hypoxia;

(2) Projects or programs that promote coastal economic and ecosystem resilience to ocean acidification and hypoxia; and

(3) Public information tools and strategies to increase awareness of ocean acidification and hypoxia science, impacts and solutions for Oregon.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of $1,900,000, which may be expended by the department in the form of grants or allocations under the program established under section 2 of this 2019 Act.

SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect July 1, 2019.