

HB 4150 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Willamette Falls Locks Authority as a public corporation. Modifies the duties of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission and sunsets the Commission on June 30, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Revenue: May have revenue impact, no statement issued

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Adds members of abutting energy facilities to list of members of Authority. Clarifies language relating to cooperation between Authority and owners of real property adjoining the locks.

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.