

HB 2125 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes State Treasurer to issue lottery bonds to produce \$100 million and transfer net proceeds to State Parks and Recreation Department (SPRD) to be deposited into Oregon Parks for the Future Fund. Outlines legislative findings related to impact of pandemic on outdoor recreation and tourism. Requires SPRD to study impact of lost revenue during COVID-19 pandemic on outdoor recreation and tourism and specifies recommendations to be made by September 15, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Originally a branch within the Highway Department, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) became its own department in 1990. The mission of OPRD is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

The Oregon Parks for the Future Fund was established to pay costs of state park projects to accomplish the purpose of creating jobs and furthering economic development in the state. Under current law, at the request of the Director of OPRD, state park lottery bonds are issued, with the net proceeds, not to exceed \$105 million, to be credited to the Fund.

House Bill 2125 authorizes the State Treasurer to issue lottery bonds that produce \$100 million in net proceeds to be credited to the Fund. The measure also requires the OPRD to study the impact on outdoor recreation and tourism by the COVID-19 pandemic and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022.