

HB 2916 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: 3/9, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes three separate Blue-Green Economy Task Forces in the areas of timber, agriculture, and marine resources, and specifies the membership and duties of each task force. Requires each task force to consult with the Oregon Global Warming Commission to develop a plan that accelerates greenhouse gas reduction and removal, enhances climate resilience, restores ecosystems, and identifies economic development opportunities in rural communities impacted by declines in the relevant industry related to the task force. Requires task forces to study and develop recommendations for existing and emerging technologies and practices that would improve economic growth and environmental health. Requires each task force to report on its recommendations by September 15, 2022. Sunsets on January 2, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Protection of environment and industry
- Size and scope of work group
- Membership of work group as representatives of industry

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The concept of "blue-green" focuses on economic development and environmental sustainability. The term "blue" references the ocean economy, while the term "green" references environmental sustainability.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission was created by the 2007 Legislative Assembly through House Bill 3543. The Commission may recommend statutory and administrative changes, policy measures, and other actions to be carried out by state and local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and residents. Additionally, the Commission tracks and evaluates assessments of global warming impacts on Oregon and the Northwest; existing greenhouse gas reduction policies and the advancement of regional, national, and international policies; costs, risks and benefits of various strategies; progress toward reduction goals; technological advances; and other related tasks.

House Bill 2916 establishes three separate blue-green task forces that would work in consultation with the Oregon Global Warming Commission to develop a plan that focuses on greenhouse gas, climate resilience, economic growth, and environmental health.