

House Bill 2125

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for State Parks and Recreation Department)

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**.

Authorizes State Treasurer, at request of State Parks and Recreation Department, to issue lottery bonds for biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for deposit in Oregon Parks for the Future Fund.

Directs State Parks and Recreation Department to conduct study regarding impact of lost revenue during COVID-19 pandemic on outdoor recreation and tourism. Requires department to submit report on findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources by September 15, 2022.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to outdoor recreation; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, at the request of the State Parks**
5 **and Recreation Department, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue lottery bonds pursu-**
6 **ant to ORS 390.060 to 390.067 in an amount that produces \$100 million in net proceeds and**
7 **interest earnings for the purposes described in subsection (2) of this section, plus an addi-**
8 **tional amount estimated by the State Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.**

9 (2) Net proceeds of lottery bonds issued under this section must be transferred to the
10 department for deposit in the Oregon Parks for the Future Fund established under ORS
11 390.067 to be used for purposes specified in ORS 390.067.

12 (3) The Legislative Assembly finds that the use of lottery bond proceeds will create jobs,
13 further economic development, finance public education and restore and protect parks,
14 beaches, watersheds and native fish and wildlife, and is authorized based on the following
15 findings:

16 (a) The COVID-19 pandemic and related closures devastated funding for outdoor recre-
17 ation and tourism in Oregon, revealing deficiencies in current funding, management and op-
18 erational structure.

19 (b) The economy and well-being of the people of Oregon are in large part dependent upon
20 proper utilization of the state's outdoor recreation resources for the physical, spiritual, cul-
21 tural, scientific and other benefits that such resources afford.

22 (c) The acquisition, development, improvement, upgrading, preservation and expansion
23 of the capacity of facilities of the system of state parks, including parks, park facilities,
24 ocean shores, scenic waterways, trails and historic sites in this state, do and will accomplish
25 the purpose of creating jobs and furthering economic development in this state by:

26 (A) Increasing the capacity, usefulness and attractive qualities of public recreational fa-
27 cilities, thereby promoting travel and tourism in Oregon;

28 (B) Generating business for and supporting the operations and prosperity of businesses

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.

1 located in the areas of public recreational facilities; and

2 (C) Creating employment opportunities within this state through the funding of develop-
3 ment and improvement projects on which workers will be employed.

4 **SECTION 2.** (1)(a) The State Parks and Recreation Department, in consultation with the
5 Oregon Tourism Commission and other relevant state agencies, shall conduct a study of the
6 impact of lost revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic on outdoor recreation and tourism in
7 this state.

8 (b) The study must include recommendations for funding and operational efficiencies that
9 can be gained through innovation and increased collaboration among outdoor recreation and
10 tourism providers.

11 (c) The study must identify and recommend a model for organizing outdoor recreation
12 and tourism service delivery to maximize operational efficiencies and improve experiences
13 for individuals engaging in outdoor recreation in this state.

14 (2) The department shall submit a report with the results of the study and any recom-
15 mendations for legislation to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to
16 natural resources on or before September 15, 2022.

17 **SECTION 3.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
18 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
19 on its passage.

20