

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 4130 A

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Appropriates moneys to Department of Transportation for wildlife corridor projects.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$7,000,000	
Total Funds	\$7,000,000	\$0

Analysis: The measure appropriates \$7 million General Fund to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to fund projects that reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity. The measure directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to assist ODOT in identifying projects that meet the requirements of the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, the Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project, and the Oregon Conservation Strategy adopted by ODFW. In addition, the measure directs ODOT to prioritize projects that will fill funding gaps for wildlife road crossings and habitat connectivity that are not otherwise funded and may require matching funds. The measure also allows ODOT to distribute funds to tribes, counties, cities, or other public or private entities for eligible projects.

ODOT anticipates that the additional funding would be administered within the existing Wildlife Passage Program structures to support wildlife passage projects. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the \$7 million General Fund is appropriated to ODOT for the 2021-23 biennium; however, this appears to conflict with the additional language in Section 1(1) that states the General Fund is continuously appropriated until expended. A continuous appropriation is inconsistent with the state’s standard budget practice, which is designed to have unexpended balances of General Fund revert at the end of the biennium. The appropriate method of financing projects that may span multiple biennia that ensures the tracking of expenditures and also follows consistent state budget process can be considered upon subsequent referral of the measure to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

ODFW anticipates a minimal fiscal impact and assumes that current staff can provide support for the various wildlife passage projects.