FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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Measure Description:

Establishes Oregon Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of State Lands, Marine Board, Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Environmental Quality

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

HB 2914 - 2 establishes the Oregon Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program in the Department of State Lands (DSL). The program is to address abandoned vessels and derelict vessels; and ensure that state-owned submerged and submersible lands are managed for the public interests in fishery, navigation, commerce and recreation. DSL, in coordination with the Oregon State Marine Board, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and other stakeholders, is to develop the policy framework for the program. The measure also establishes the Oregon Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Fund which is continuously appropriated to DSL for the program. DSL is to submit a report on their progress in implementing the program to the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment, land use and natural resources by February 15, 2024. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

This measure relates to Policy Option Package 113 in the 2023-25 Governor's Budget for DSL. Although not contemplated in the bill, the associated policy package would transfer and permit expenditure of \$18.76 million Other Funds from the monies received by the Department of Justice for the recent Monsanto settlement for the purpose of addressing abandoned and derelict vessels and unauthorized campsites along waterways in the state. DSL intends to use the funding to set up a discrete budgetary unit and operating program that includes a program manager, project manager, procurement specialist, natural resources specialist, and administrative positions. The proposed policy package funding is a one-time transfer and the positions are requested as limited duration. DSL notes that the agency already plans to convene a work group for policy framework development within the next month. Based on the outcomes of this work group, and the work done in the 2023-25 biennium, DSL will request additional resources for this program through the 2025-27 budget development process.

The measure does not identify a source of ongoing funding for the program.

There is no or minimal fiscal impact for the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Department of Environmental Quality.

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