

HB 2130 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Eliminates requirement that Attorney General appoint a provider of a nonbinding environmental claims mediation program and set standards by rule for the program's mediator qualifications and fees.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 57; Nays, 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Environmental Cleanup Assistant Act was enacted in 1999. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly specified that an insurer's duties when environmental claims are filed against its insured include participation in nonbinding environmental claim mediation upon the insured's request. It also enacted the requirement that the Attorney General appoint a provider to run an environmental claims mediation program, make rules that set standards of qualification, training and experience for the mediators, and make rules setting the schedule of fees for the program. However, parties have not utilized the program and instead have used privately contracted mediators.

House Bill 2130 would eliminate the requirement that the Attorney General appoint a provider and make rules for a nonbinding environmental claims mediation program.