

HB 3382 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Port of Astoria, Port of Coos Bay, Port of Newport, Port of Portland, and Port of St. Helens to construct, maintain, and improve deep draft navigation channel improvements without demonstrating compliance with state or local land use law.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Maintenance required to keep navigation channels in operation
- Role of ports state and local economies
- Balancing economic and environmental concerns
- Potential impact on estuaries
- Scope of measure
- Outreach to tribal governments
- Impacts of climate change
- Role of Port of Coos Bay following a major earthquake

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's system of 23 public ports plays an important role in the state's economy, providing the gateway through which numerous products produced throughout the state make their way to international markets. Nine of the state's ports are situated along the Columbia River, including the deep water ports of Astoria, St. Helens and Portland, all located on the Lower Columbia. The remaining 14 ports span the Pacific coast, including two additional deep water ports in Coos Bay and Newport.

Maintaining a deep water port requires periodic maintenance to ensure that a minimum depth is provided for shipping vessels. House Bill 3382 authorizes Oregon's five deep water ports to construct, maintain, and improve deep draft navigation channels, defined as having a depth of more than 30 feet, without demonstrating compliance with, or taking an exception to, state or local land use law.