

HB 2981 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/13, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to study aquatic invasive species and submit a report on the study to the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2026. It repeals the study and reporting requirements on January 2, 2027.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of aquatic invasive species in Oregon on environment, economy, and tourism
- Regional work on the issue
- Aquatic invasive species of concern
- Methods and costs for eradicating aquatic invasive species

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment appropriates moneys to various entities for work related to aquatic invasive species.

Detailed summary:

Replaces the measure. Appropriates moneys out of the General Fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, to the following entities, for specified amounts and specific uses:

- to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the amount of \$175,000 for the purpose of inspecting vessels and verifying compliance with Oregon Revised Statute to minimize the risk of introducing invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species into Oregon's waters.
- to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the amount of \$800,000 for distribution to the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at Portland State University to monitor for invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species in Oregon's highest-risk waterbodies.
- to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of contracting to update Oregon's waterbody vulnerability assessment for invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species.
- to the Invasive Species Council, the amounts of 1) \$150,000 for the purpose of facilitating interagency rapid response exercises to increase state preparedness to respond to detections of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species, and 2) \$20,000 for the purpose of leading an interagency group in the collaborative development of a framework for emergency declarations, and clarification of roles and responsibilities across agencies, related to the detection of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program was passed into law in 2009, and mandatory inspections at designated stations along Oregon's borders were added to the law in 2011. In 2014, the National Sea Grant Law Center published a report containing the recommendation to require draining of all standing or captured water

and to transport boats with plugs and valves open to facilitate drainage to minimize standing water that can support mussel survival.

PRELIMINARY