

SB 361 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to specified ports to carry out dredging projects. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

NOTE - Measure has a subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Dredging needs at many ports
- Lack of sufficient funds at local level to pay for dredging

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Revises list of allocations from General Fund through the Oregon Business Development Department to include: Port of Brookings Harbor (\$50,000), Port of Bandon (\$225,000), Port of Newport (\$750,000), Port of Astoria (\$381,373), Internatinal Port of Coos Bay (\$350,000), and Port of Garibaldi (\$400,000). Stipulates that recipients must either utilize a dredge owned by the recipient or first receive a quote for dredging services from the Oregon's state-owned dredge. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

FISCAL:

REVENUE: No revenue impact on measure w/the -4 amendment

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has a combined system of 23 public ports that serve as gateways through which Oregon products begin their journey to markets throughout the world. Nine ports operate on the Columbia River system, while there are also 14 coastal ports, including the deepwater ports of Newport and the International Port of Coos Bay. Ports also play important roles in economic development and tourism.

The navigation channel and bars of most ports must be dredged periodically to maintain their depth due to the natural buildup of silt deposits. Coastal jetties also require periodic maintenance in order to protect navigational access to smaller ports and harbors. The federal government provides periodic financial assistance to ports for dredging, and the Legislative Assembly has, over the years, provided funding assistance for small port dredging.

Senate Bill 361 allocates moneys from the General Fund to the Port of Brookings Harbor (\$50,000), Port of Bandon (\$225,000) and Port of Newport (\$750,000) to carry out dredging projects.