

House Bill 3786

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG, Senator ANDERSON; Senators SMITH DB, WEBER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act gives money to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to provide grants. (Flesch Readability Score: 76.5).

Appropriates moneys to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust for deposit in the Oregon Ocean Science Fund for the purpose of providing competitive grants.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to coastal research; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas changing ocean conditions are having profound effects on the abundance, distribution
4 and biodiversity of marine species; and

5 Whereas the west coast is experiencing ocean acidification at twice the global rate, impacting
6 important commercial and recreational marine species and first foods for tribal nations, such as
7 Dungeness crab, oysters and salmon; and

8 Whereas ocean warming and melting glaciers are predicted to increase global sea levels by at
9 least three feet, and possibly as much as six feet, in the next 80 years, causing increased coastal
10 flooding and erosion in Oregon; and

11 Whereas 72 percent of Oregon's coastline consists of dune or bluff-backed sandy beaches that
12 are popular destinations for both tourists and residents while providing important habitats for
13 coastal and marine wildlife, yet key data gaps exist that limit Oregon's ability to address coastal
14 erosion issues at local and state scales; and

15 Whereas proposed wind energy development off the Oregon coast will require an improved
16 understanding of the infrastructure impacts to nearshore ecosystems; and

17 Whereas Oregon has significant priority management needs relating to commercial and recre-
18 ational fisheries, kelp forest ecosystem disruptions caused by sea urchins, the proposed reintroduc-
19 tion of sea otters and other nearshore species management issues; and

20 Whereas further understanding of ocean, estuarine, sandy beach and nearshore ecosystem con-
21 tributions to blue carbon storage and resilience to climate change are timely and relevant topics
22 that can inform nearshore species and habitat management; and

23 Whereas Oregon's ocean, public beaches and estuaries are a beloved part of the state's identity
24 and a key economic driver for coastal communities; now, therefore,

25 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

26 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
27 **ated to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the**
28 **General Fund, the following amounts, to be deposited in the Oregon Ocean Science Fund and**
29 **expended for the following purposes:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (1) \$1,000,000 to provide competitive grants for ocean acidification and hypoxia research
2 to address risks and vulnerabilities that threaten Oregon's economy and ecosystems.

3 (2) \$1,000,000 to provide competitive grants for sandy beach and dune ecosystem research
4 to inform management strategies to address coastal erosion.

5 (3) \$1,000,000 to provide competitive grants for nearshore data collection to understand
6 changing ocean conditions and effects on species and ecosystems.

7 SECTION 2. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
8 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
9 July 1, 2025.

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