

SB 1525 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Blue Economy Task Force to study and report on Oregon's blue economy sectors, existing economic development plans and strategies, and opportunities to support the growth of sustainable blue economy businesses while maintaining the health of Oregon's coastal ecosystems. The measure also authorizes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to create and maintain a nonprofit organization. The Act takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Establishes the Blue Economy Task Force (task force), consisting of no less than 13 members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Requires the task force to include one Senator and one Representative, along with representatives from: public or private research institutions, businesses innovating in blue economy sectors, fisheries businesses, tourism industry, environmental organizations, and equity investors in blue economy businesses.

Directs the task force to study and report on Oregon's blue economy sectors, existing economic development plans and strategies, and opportunities to support the growth of sustainable blue economy businesses while maintaining the health of Oregon's coastal ecosystems.

Requires report to include:

- synthesis of relevant studies, market analyses, and federal and state programs;
- identification of existing state and local initiatives to determine where existing efforts could be expanded into a unified strategic plan;
- review of other states or countries' efforts to identify best practices;
- prioritized recommendations; and
- an implementation roadmap.

Requires the task force to submit a report to the interim committees related to the environment no later than September 15, 2027. Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support and to contract for necessary services. Repeals task force on December 31, 2027.

Authorizes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to create and maintain a nonprofit organization.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to Business Oregon's Ocean Resources and the Blue Market Analysis, "the blue economy comprises the many sustainable economic activities, innovations, and emerging markets that depend on the ocean, shoreline,

and estuaries directly along the Oregon coast.” The analysis estimates that in 2019, Oregon’s blue economy generated a GDP of \$3.1 billion. This estimate includes but is not limited to the following activities: aquaculture, energy, fishing, food production and processing, research and development, marine transportation, and tourism.

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 747, which established the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST). The duties of the OOST are to promote peer-reviewed ocean and coastal research and monitoring; promote innovative, collaborative approaches to research and monitoring; enhance this state’s capacity for peer-reviewed scientific ocean and coastal research; and, subject to available funding, administer a competitive grant program for ocean and coastal research and monitoring.