



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2026 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to organizations relevant to Oregon's coastal resources; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of State Lands, Task Force/Committee/Workgroup, Legislative Assembly, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Legislative Policy and Research Office

Summary of Fiscal Impact: Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure creates the Blue Economy Task Force, consisting of at least 13 members, which is to prepare a report on the sectors of Oregon’s blue economy, existing economic development plans or strategies for the blue economy, and opportunities for Oregon to facilitate the growth of sustainable blue economy businesses. The bill directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to provide staff support for the task force. The task force may contract for services through LPRO. Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly serve as volunteers on the task force and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses unless qualified under ORS 292.495.

The measure permits the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to advance the mission of the trust.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact of staffing the task force is anticipated to be absorbed within existing agency resources.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

The bill requires LPRO to provide staff support to the task force. LPRO’s current service level budget is designed to support interim committees and a certain number of task forces within existing resources. However, the number of committees and task forces over the last several biennia have increased, and if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2025-27 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

To estimate the potential expenditures for staffing this task force, assuming two meetings per month through September 2027, with pause in meetings for the 2027 legislative session, would require one Senior Legislative Analyst assigned full-time to the task force (0.33 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 0.13 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium), one Research Analyst assigned part-time to the task force (0.17 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 0.06 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium), and one Committee Assistant assigned part-time to the task force (0.17 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 0.06 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium). Given the unique multi-sector nature of this subject area, LPRO analysts specializing in other subject areas may be called on to assist with supporting the task force’s work.

LPRO notes that due to the timelines of the measure, staff will likely begin starting work to support the task force soon after the measure's effective date in early June, as the task force must be appointed and the first task force meeting must occur in early September; however, LPRO will need direction from the task force chair, once appointed, to complete some of the work required. LPRO may also need further direction on the types of recommendations to prepare as part of the task force's report. Work related to the task force will be paused during the 2027 legislative session and resume prior to submittal of a required report in September 2027.

Legislative Assembly

The bill is also expected to have a minimal impact on the Legislative Assembly. Although the 2025-27 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2025-27 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Two members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during the Legislative Session, or Task Force or Legislative Days.

Other entities

There is minimal fiscal impact for public universities, Department of Land Conservation and Development, and Department of State Lands.

Relevant Dates

The bill takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die, and the task force sunsets on December 31, 2027.

Appointments to the task force must be made within 60 days of the measure's effective date, and the task force must have its first meeting within 90 days of the effective date.

The task force is to report to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment, and the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, by September 15, 2027.