

HB 2327 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires recipients of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grants to maintain liability insurance in connection with grant. Guidelines for liability coverage to be established by OWEB in consultation with grant recipient. Removes healthy streams partnership from Oregon Plan. Adds representative of US Fish & Wildlife Service as non-voting member of OWEB. Ends Oregon Department of Administrative Services' provision of liability insurance to OWEB grant recipients. Removes requirement for OWEB to provide geographic information systems data on activities under Oregon Plan. Eliminates requirement for certain agencies to provide reports for OWEB to post to centralized repository.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Liability coverage for grantees
- Healthy Streams Partnership statute
- OWEB board composition
- Record keeping and reporting requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Amendment (-1) would change due date for Oregon Plan Biennial Report to Governor and Legislature from January 15 of odd-numbered years to January 15 of even-numbered years.

BACKGROUND:

Liability coverage offered to watershed councils through the Department of Administration Services (DAS) is limited. House Bill 2327 would repeal language in statute that the Department of Administrative Services may provide liability coverage for watershed councils at the expense of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), instead requiring grant recipients to obtain liability insurance at levels commensurate with grant activities.

House Bill 2327 would allow a representative from US Fish & Wildlife Service, which helps fund and implement watershed enhancement programs across the state, to serve as a non-voting member of OWEB.

House Bill 2327 would remove the requirement for agencies to forward watershed enhancement-related reports to OWEB to include in a centralized repository, instead relying on the reports' availability online. The Bill would remove requirements for OWEB to report on watershed and key habitat conditions in each drainage basin in the state due to lack of data or resources to report in a geographically consistent manner.

The proposed -1 amendment would allow last 6 months of biennium to be included in report to the Governor and Legislative Assembly.