

## **HB 2304 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Alexa Diaz

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 5/22

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows issuance of lottery bonds to finance acquisition and restoration of Willamette Falls navigation canals and locks. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2019.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-2 Removes references to Department of State Lands. Specifies amount for lottery bond net proceeds of \$14,422,200.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

The Willamette Falls Canal was constructed in the 1870s to allow river traffic to navigate around the 40-foot, horseshoe-shaped basalt ridge between Oregon City and West Linn on the Willamette River. In 1915, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the locks and were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The locks were deemed non-operational in December 2011. Senate Bill 131 (2015) established the Willamette Falls Locks Task Force to gather information related to the locks including the current and potential future values of the locks. In 2017, Senate Bill 256 (2017) created the Willamette Falls Locks Commission, the Willamette Falls Navigation Infrastructure Program, and the Willamette Falls Navigation Infrastructure Program Account.

House Bill 2304 authorizes the lottery bonds to be issued to the Oregon Department of State Lands for the acquisition and restoration of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks. The measure declares emergency and takes effect July 1, 2019.