SB 256   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Gomberg, Rep. Smith DB

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date:	03/12/19
Action:	Do Pass.
Vote:	7-2-0-0
Yeas:	7 - Helm, Salinas, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde, Williams, Zika
Nays:	2 - Findley, Reschke
Fiscal:	No fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/5, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Removes sunset on Chapter 11, Oregon Laws 2010, prohibiting the Oregon Department of State Lands from leasing any of the submerged or submersible lands within the territorial sea for the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or sulfur. Prohibits activities in furtherance of the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or sulfur within federal waters adjacent to the territorial sea. Clarifies that provisions of the bill are not intended to impair or supersede federal law that applies to the territorial sea.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fishing and tourism economy along the coast
- Moratorium on exploration in territorial sea set to expire January 1, 2020
- Federal conversations about opening up federal waters beyond territorial sea
- Subduction zone and seismic concerns

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The "territorial sea" is defined in ORS 196.405 as the waters and seabed extending three geographical miles seaward from the coastline in conformance with federal law. The 2007 legislature adopted a prohibition on leasing in the territorial sea for purposes of exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or sulfur that sunset on January 2, 2010 (Chapter 521, Oregon Laws 2007). The 2010 legislature extended this prohibition until January 1, 2020 (Chapter 11, Oregon Laws 2010).

Senate Bill 256 would prohibit the Department of State Lands from leasing any submerged or submersible lands in the Oregon territorial sea for the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or sulfur or activities in furtherance thereof within federal waters adjacent to the territorial sea.