

**HB 2549 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Carrier:** Rep. Helm

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**Action Date:** 03/23/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/11, 3/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires agencies, with existing reporting requirements, to submit reports on the status of public land sites with public access to public waterways for recreational use also be submitted to the State Marine Board (Board). Stipulates that reports do not need to include closures or restrictions that lasted less than 24 hours. Directs Board to compile and make information in reports public, including through a website with a map of reported public access sites. Authorizes Board to take action before operative date of January 1, 2022, to enable conformity with provisions of the bill, including at least one opportunity for public comment on the required form of the reports and website. Takes effect on 91<sup>st</sup> day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Increased outdoor recreational activity due to COVID-19
- Transparency and accountability in public access
- Addition of web-based public access map

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Adds specification that reports from any state agency that restricted, closed, opened, or reopened a public access site in the previous year need not include closures or restrictions lasting less than 24 hours. Removes requirement that report conform to format prescribed by State Marine Board.

**BACKGROUND:**

The public has a right to use an Oregon waterway for recreation if the waterway is navigable for title purposes, if the waterway is floatable for purposes of the Public Use Doctrine, or if the waterway is both. In 2019, House Bill 2835 was enacted, requiring state agencies to post notice on agency websites before restricting or closing a public access site to a floatable natural waterway. The measure also required agencies to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on any public access sites that restricted, closed, opened, or reopened during the previous calendar year.

House Bill 2549 A would direct the State Marine Board to compile and make public the information in reports on public access sites, including through the use of a web-based map.