

HB 2695 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Carrier: Rep. Witt

Action Date: 03/25/21

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

Vote: 6-3-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Reardon, Williams, Witt

Nays: 3 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Smith DB

Exc: 1 - Post

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/11, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies membership of State Marine Board (Board) to include eight voting members and two nonvoting members. Directs Governor to appoint voting members as follows: one member with academic or professional expertise in riverine ecology, fisheries biology, or environmental conservation; one member who owns floating home; one member representing recreational boating organization or who has substantial and current experience as a recreational boater; one member representing water paddling organization or who has substantial and current experience as a water paddler; one member representing a recreational fishing organization or who has substantial and current experience as a recreational fisher; one member representing a federally recognized Indian tribe in the state; one member of the public at large; and one member who is a licensed outfitter and guide. Directs Governor to select two ex officio nonvoting members from among any combination of the following: appointing the Director of Department of State Lands or director's designee, appointing the Director of Department of Environmental Quality or director's designee, or inviting a representative of any federal government agency with statutory duties directly related to fish management. Directs Board to allow public testimony on matters pending before the Board during the same public meeting in which the matter is considered and allows Board members to engage in substantive dialogue with the public for purposes of transparency and public engagement. Establishes that voting members of Board appointed by the Governor are subject to Senate confirmation. Establishes that a majority of voting members of the Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Terminates current Board member terms of office on June 30, 2022 and allows for reappointment of a member whose office has been terminated on this date. Establishes staggered term ending dates for newly appointed members. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Diversity of Board member representation
- Need for greater environmental expertise
- Impact of regional issues on changes to Board membership

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds one voting member who is a licensed outfitter and guide.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Marine Board (Board) is the state's regulatory agency for maintaining safe access to and use of Oregon's waterways, providing education and enforcement for the boating public, and helping address environmental stewardship. Board membership is currently comprised of five volunteer members who are appointed by the Governor and each serve a four-year term.

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House Bill 2695 A modifies membership of the State Marine Board to include eight voting members and two nonvoting members.