

HB 2914 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. Describes task force membership and member appointment authority. Requires task force to study and make recommendations on laws governing the seizure and disposal of abandoned and derelict vessels. Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office Director to provide staff support to the task force. Designates Legislative Assembly members as non-voting task force members and does not entitle task force members to compensation or reimbursement for participation. Sunsets December 31, 2024. Directs the State Marine Board and the Department of State Lands to jointly identify the locations of abandoned and derelict vessels and prioritize seizure and disposal of vessels in the order of the hazard the vessels present. Requires the Department of State Lands to develop and regularly update a web-based and publicly interfaced mapping tool for receiving information about abandoned and derelict vessels. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

NOTE - Measure has subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Common School Fund is current source of funding for abandoned and derelict vessel removal
- Hazards presented by abandoned and derelict vessels
- Possible fund sources for proposed dedicated account

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Establishes the Oregon Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program in the Department of State Lands. Requires the program to address abandoned and derelict vessels and ensure that state-owned submerged and submersible lands are managed for the public interest of fisheries, navigation, commerce, and recreation. Directs the department to identify and work with stakeholders to develop a policy framework for program implementation. Allows for department rulemaking. Creates the Oregon Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Fund in the State Treasury. Allows the department to accept monies for deposit in the fund. Requires the department to submit a program progress report to committees of the Legislative Assembly on or before February 15, 2024. Sunsets reporting requirements on January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, takes effect on passage.

FIS: Fiscal statement issued on measure w/the -2 amendment

RIS: No revenue impact on measure w/the -2 amendment

BACKGROUND:

Abandoned vessels are left without authorization on public or private land, or in State or other waters. Derelict vessels are often sinking, actively polluting or obstructing a waterway, endangering life or property, or are in a dilapidated condition and in danger of becoming a significant hazard. Abandoned or derelict vessels (ADV) can cause negative impacts on water quality, damage floats and docks, and can impact safe navigation for other water users. According to statute, an enforcement agency that has responsibility for land or water has the authority to seize these vessels with or without notice depending on the hazards involved.

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In a 2022 memo to the then- Governor Kate Brown, the Director of the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) noted there were at least 19 known ADV commercial vessels of concern statewide and 175 recreational ADVs in the Portland metro area that were of concern, but no statewide recreational ADV information was currently available.

House Bill 2914 establishes a Task Force on Abandoned and Derelict Vessels and includes legislative, law enforcement, marine, fishing and environmental member representation. The task force will study and make recommendations on laws governing the seizing and disposing of abandoned and derelict vessels in Oregon. The measure also adds language to existing statute that the State Marine Board and DSL will jointly identify locations of ADV's and prioritize seizure and disposal of these vessels in the order of the hazard the vessels present. It also requires DSL to develop and regularly update a web-based and publicly interfacing mapping tool for receiving and mapping ADV's locations.