

House Bill 2914

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. Directs task force to examine issues related to seizing and disposing of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels.

Directs State Marine Board and Department of State Lands to jointly identify and prioritize abandoned vessels and derelict vessels for disposal.

Directs Department of State Lands to develop web-based mapping tool for receiving information about location of suspected and confirmed abandoned vessel or derelict vessel.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to marine vessels; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Abandoned and Derelict Vessels is established.**

5 **(2) The task force consists of 18 members appointed as follows:**

6 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**
7 **Senate.**

8 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
9 **members of the House of Representatives.**

10 **(c) The Governor shall appoint as members one representative from each of the follow-**
11 **ing:**

12 **(A) The Department of Environmental Quality.**

13 **(B) The Department of State Lands.**

14 **(C) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

15 **(D) The State Marine Board.**

16 **(E) The Oregon State Police.**

17 **(d) The Governor shall appoint:**

18 **(A) One member representing the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association.**

19 **(B) One member representing the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police.**

20 **(C) Three members representing the Oregon Public Ports Association.**

21 **(D) Two members representing private marinas in this state.**

22 **(E) Three members representing the recreational and commercial fishing industry.**

23 **(F) One member representing a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization.**

24 **(3) The purpose of the task force is to study and make recommendations on laws gov-**
25 **erning the seizing and disposing of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels. Specifically, the**
26 **task force shall prepare a report that addresses:**

27 **(a) Funding for an abandoned and derelict vessel program in this state that includes**
28 **moneys for the seizure, removal and disposal of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (b) Coordination of efforts between state and local officials to seize, remove and dispose
2 of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels.

3 (c) Recommendations for disposing abandoned vessels and derelict vessels in a cost-
4 effective manner.

5 (d) Whether additional insurance coverage for vessels is recommended.

6 (e) Whether the state should require hull integrity inspections before the sale of vessels
7 over a certain size in this state.

8 (f) Whether the state should sponsor a “vessel turn-in program.”

9 (g) Whether the existing penalties for the abandonment of vessels are adequate.

10 (h) Owner accountability for the costs of the seizure, removal, salvage and disposal of
11 abandoned vessels and derelict vessels in Oregon.

12 (i) Any other recommendations the task force considers important.

13 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
14 transaction of business.

15 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
16 members of the task force.

17 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

18 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
19 ment to become immediately effective.

20 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
21 or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

22 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

23 (10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and
24 may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative
25 Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.

26 (11) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task
27 force.

28 (12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting
29 members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

30 (13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
31 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task
32 force.

33 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
34 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
35 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
36 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

37 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on December 31, 2024.

38 **SECTION 3.** Section 4 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 830.908 to
39 830.948.

40 **SECTION 4.** The State Marine Board and the Department of State Lands shall jointly:

41 (1) Identify the locations of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels; and

42 (2) Prioritize seizure and disposal of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels in the order
43 of the hazard the vessels present.

44 **SECTION 5.** Section 6 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 274.376 to
45 274.388.

1 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Department of State Lands shall develop and regularly update a
2 web-based mapping tool for receiving information about the locations of suspected and con-
3 firmed abandoned vessels and derelict vessels.

4 (2) The web-based mapping tool must permit members of the general public and law
5 enforcement to report to the department the location of a suspected and confirmed aban-
6 doned vessel or derelict vessel.

7 **SECTION 7.** This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023
8 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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