

## Legislative Fiscal Office

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## Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Representative Tawna Sanchez, House Co-Chair

Senator Fred Girod, Senate Co-Vice Chair  
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Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer  
Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)  
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

**To:** Natural Resources Subcommittee

**From:** April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Date:** February 21, 2024

**Subject:** SB 1561 – Relating to the administration of moneys received from the Monsanto settlement  
Work Session Recommendations

Senate Bill 1561 establishes the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund (OERF), which will primarily consist of proceeds from the Monsanto Settlement Agreement, for remediation of environmental contamination, or restitution efforts, particularly those related to polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. These persistent pollutants accumulate in fish and wildlife, and clean-up is intensive and costly. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), for activities including natural resource damage assessment or restoration, air and water quality improvements, contaminated site cleanups and wildlife habitat protections.

The measure also establishes the Environmental Restoration Council as part of OWEB. The Council will approve allocations and transfers of moneys from the OERF to the other funds established by the measure, including the Tribal Nation Natural Resource Program Fund, the State Agency Program Fund, and the Disproportionately Impacted Community Fund.

The Oregon State Treasurer will provide accounting services and advice in establishing a long-term distribution policy which aims to maintain a stable asset value.

The administrative costs of implementing the measure will be covered by the OERF, as well as a \$5 million transfer to OWEB from the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Remediation and Restitution Account. The fiscal impact of the measure totals approximately \$1.8 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation, which would support establishment of 8 positions (4.67 FTE) for OWEB, the State Treasurer, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Environmental Quality.

The measure previously had a hearing in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire on February 13, 2024 and was reported out with a do pass recommendation.

## **Recommended Changes**

LFO recommends adoption of the –A3 amendment, which provides expenditure limitation to support implementation and administration of the established funds.

- For the cost of five positions (3.13 FTE), as well as services and supplies and legal expenses, OWEB is provided \$1,322,956 in Other Funds expenditure limitation.
- For the cost of one position (0.54 FTE), as well as services and supplies, the Oregon State Treasury is provided \$175,221 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for accounting services.
- For the cost of one position (0.50 FTE), as well as services and supplies, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is provided \$137,568 in Other Funds expenditure limitation to provide support and subject matter expertise.
- For the cost of one position (0.50 FTE), as well as services and supplies, the Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Cleanup Program, is provided \$141,727 in Other Funds expenditure limitation to provide technical assistance and expertise.

**MOTION: I move adoption of the –A3 amendment to SB 1561. (VOTE)**

## **Final Subcommittee Action**

LFO recommends that SB 1561, as amended by the –A3 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

**MOTION: I move SB 1561, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)**

## **Carriers**

Full Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

House Floor: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Floor: \_\_\_\_\_