

**SB 357 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes ports to charge public bodies for the cost of removing sediment from port waters.

Fiscal impact: (info)

Revenue impact: (info)

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon has a combined system of 23 public ports that serve as gateways through which Oregon products begin their journey to markets throughout the world. Nine ports operate on the Columbia River system, while there are also 14 coastal ports, including the deepwater ports of Newport and the International Port of Coos Bay. Ports also play important roles in economic development and tourism.

The navigation channel and bars of most ports must be dredged periodically to maintain their depth due to the natural buildup of silt deposits. Coastal jetties also require periodic maintenance in order to protect navigational access to smaller ports and harbors. The federal government provides periodic financial assistance to ports for dredging, and the Legislative Assembly has, over the years, provided funding assistance for small port dredging.

Senate Bill 357 grants Oregon ports the authority to assess public bodies for a portion of the cost of removing sediment from port waters, once per calendar year, if the public body owns or controls a culvert, creek, or other watercourse that discharges into port waters during the calendar year for which the assessment is made.