

**SB 504 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire**

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**Action Date:** 02/25/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Prozanski, Taylor

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 2/18, 2/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure directs the Land Conservation and Development Commission to adopt rules to guide the use of nonstructural, nature-based solutions used for shoreline stabilization in estuaries, coastal shorelands, and the ocean shore.

Detailed Summary:

Directs the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to adopt rules that incorporate guidance for the use of nonstructural, nature-based solutions used for shoreline stabilization in estuaries, coastal shorelands, and the ocean shore by January 1, 2028. Requires the rules:

1. define “nonstructural, nature-based solutions” that meet specified criteria.
2. provide guidance for the use of nonstructural, nature-based solutions to minimize impact from flooding and erosion.
3. require that non-structural, nature-based solutions comply with statewide land use planning goals and prioritize specified solutions and practices over structural solutions.

Requires LCDC confer with Departments of State Lands, Transportation, and Parks and Recreation and appoint a rules advisory committee including specified participants. Prohibits LCDC from altering any existing rules to allow ODOT to use shoreline stabilization that includes structural methods, elements, or solutions. Authorizes DSL and OPRD to adopt conforming or consistent rules by January 1, 2029.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Materials used in soil bioengineering
- -4 amendment; difference between terms "soil bioengineering" and "nonstructural, nature-based solutions"

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment modifies the rule requirements.

Detailed Summary:

Requires the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) adopt a definition of “nonstructural, nature-based solutions” instead of "soil bioengineering systems" and modifies list of natural materials. Requires rules to include criteria for wildlife habitat, improving water quality, cultural and recreational resources and, where appropriate public access, and to provide guidance for the use of nonstructural, nature-based solutions to minimize impact from flooding and erosion, and requires that the advisory committee include restoration professionals, tribal representatives, and landowners or managers.

**BACKGROUND:**

## **SB 504 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Coastal shorelines change in response to wind, waves, tides, rising and falling sea levels, and storm impacts. Coastal bioengineering practices aim to protect property and provide habitat connectivity by reducing erosion and stabilizing shorelines. Some shoreline stabilization methods employ hard materials for protection, including bulkheads, retaining walls, walkways, and roads. Bioengineering practices that employ soft materials typically install deep-rooted native plant species, logs, root wads, vegetative mats, and other methods that reduce or eliminate the need for hard materials.