

HB 2982 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 03/19/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/10, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure increases boating fees for the issuance and renewal of an aquatic invasive species permit, the biennial fee for the original or renewal certificate of number or registration, and fees for waterway access permits. The Act removes the provision that limits waterway access permit fees for boats over 10 feet in length. Instead, it establishes that the fee will be charged to any nonmotorized boats and sailboats, regardless of size, with the exception of nonmotorized boats under 10 feet in length that are used for whitewater recreation activities on designated waters.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of fee increases on small boat users
- Intent of the Act is to expand the team of people working on invasive species

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment exempts nonmotorized boats under 10 feet in length that are used for whitewater recreation activities on designated waters from having to obtain a waterway access permit.

BACKGROUND:

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are any non-native plants, animals, and other organisms that primarily live in water habitats. AIS of particular concern in Oregon are dreissenid mussels such as quagga and zebra mussels (*D. bugensis* and *D. polymorpha* respectively), which may alter local fresh-water food webs by filtering water and removing plankton, and cause damage to infrastructure such as water intake pipes. In 2009 the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2220 that created the AIS Prevention Program which is funded through certain boating fees. Waterway access permits have been required since 2020 for boaters who operate a paddle craft 10 feet in length or longer.