

HB 3486 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/24/25

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: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires at least one member of the Research Vessel Council to be a trained scientist from the University of Oregon with at least five years of marine research experience. It appropriates \$306,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for distribution to the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program to be used for 30 days of research per year on two research vessels operated by the University of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology and \$110,000 from the General Fund to HECC to be expended for the purchase of a dive vessel and for the construction of a dock for a dive vessel and a dive platform. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Nature of the collaborations between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University
- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment makes a technical fix by directing the \$306,000 General Fund appropriation to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to be distributed to the **Oceangoing Research Vessel Program**, instead of the University of Oregon, and specifies the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology to be the **University of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology**.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program was established at Oregon State University to assist in the research and study of the waters of the Pacific Coast (House Bill 3451). Proposals submitted to the program are evaluated by the Research Vessel Council whose required membership includes members from certain state agencies, at least one member with expertise in marine operations or marine education, and at least one member who is a trained scientist at least five years of marine research experience. The Oregon Institute of Marine Biology is housed at the University of Oregon.