

HB 3314 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 by prior reference.
(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

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/5, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates a total of \$1.02 million from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services to be distributed to the Human Access Project to work in partnership with Oregon State University to mitigate harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island lagoon.

Detailed Summary

Appropriates \$1.02 million General Fund moneys to the Department of Administrative Services to be distributed to Human Access Project to carry out efforts in partnership with Oregon State University (OSU) to mitigate harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island lagoon. Specifies funds to be split into the following purposes:

- \$950,000 for engineering and permitting expenses
- \$40,000 for OSU project management expenses
- \$30,000 for Human Access Project management expenses

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons for the reduced appropriation in the adopted amendment
- Importance of mitigating harmful algal blooms
- Barriers for the Human Access Project to be funded through the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes all appropriations and instead appropriates a total of \$1.02 million from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services to be distributed to the Human Access Project to mitigate harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island lagoon in partnership with Oregon State University.

BACKGROUND:

A harmful algal bloom (HAB) (or excessive algae growth) occurs when colonies of microscopic algae grow out of control due to the interplay of favorable nutrient, temperature, light, and habitat conditions. While not all algal blooms are toxic, HABs can cause sickness and death in humans, pets, and livestock that come in contact with or drink the water, and also can result in hypoxia (low oxygen) in water bodies, which can kill fish and other wildlife. HABs occur in many different types of waterbodies, including drinking water reservoirs, lakes, and other ponded waters. Over the past decade, various algae-produced toxins have been detected in the surface waters of rivers and lakes around Oregon. Ross Island lagoon formed in 1926 when the U.S. Army Corps of engineers connected two islands, Ross Island and Hardtack Island, of a four-island cluster in the Willamette River in Portland by an

HB 3314 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

artificial levee.