

SB 2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Action Date: 03/25/25

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Manning Jr, Meek, Smith DB, Thatcher

Exc: 1 - Woods

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the *Salvage Chief (LSM-380)* Foundation for hull repairs; engine, fire pump, and emergency communications upgrades; US Coast Guard inspection and contingency; and returning to operation the vessel known as the *Salvage Chief*. It declares an emergency and is effective July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amount of funding requested and potential alternative funding sources outside the General Fund
- Coordination with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and other agencies
- Preparedness for a Cascadia event

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The *Salvage Chief*, originally the *LSM-380*, is a landing ship launched during World War II assigned to the Asia-Pacific Theater. The ship was decommissioned in 1948 following the war and was purchased by Fred Devine, who repurposed and modified it for salvage duties, including the addition of a helipad. The *Salvage Chief* was capable of developing more than 300 tons of line pull and worked out of Astoria. It was used for salvage operations along much of the Pacific Coast, and it was the primary salvage support vessel for the *Exxon Valdez* in 1989. The ship was retired from service in 2015 and is currently in the care of the *Salvage Chief (LSM-380)* Foundation, a nonprofit corporation registered with the State of Oregon.

Senate Bill 2 appropriates \$3 million to repair and upgrade the *Salvage Chief* and return it to operation.