

HB 2981 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 04/08/25

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

Vote: 12-0-0-0

Yeas: 12 - Andersen, Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Neron, Osborne, Owens, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/13, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates moneys to various entities for work related to aquatic invasive species.

Detailed summary:

Appropriates moneys out of the General Fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, to the following entities, for specified amounts and specific uses:

- to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the amount of \$175,000 for the purpose of inspecting vessels and verifying compliance with Oregon Revised Statute to minimize the risk of introducing invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species into Oregon's waters.
- to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the amount of \$800,000 for distribution to the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at Portland State University to monitor for invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species in Oregon's highest-risk waterbodies.
- to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of contracting to update Oregon's waterbody vulnerability assessment for invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species.
- to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the amounts of 1) \$150,000 for the purpose of facilitating interagency rapid response exercises to increase state preparedness to respond to detections of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species, and 2) \$20,000 for the purpose of leading an interagency group in the collaborative development of a framework for emergency declarations, and clarification of roles and responsibilities across agencies, related to the detection of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of aquatic invasive species in Oregon on environment, economy, and tourism
- Regional work on the issue
- Aquatic invasive species of concern
- Methods and costs for eradicating aquatic invasive species

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 570.755 defines an "invasive species" as a nonnative organism that causes economic or environmental harm and is capable of spreading to new areas of the state. According to the Oregon Department

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of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) "Oregon Conservation Strategy," when introduced to a new environment, invasive species leave behind natural enemies, such as predators, disease, or parasites, that had historically controlled its population growth in its original home. Without this control, species can quickly expand, out-competing and overwhelming native species that may not have evolved the necessary survival strategies to fend off unfamiliar species or diseases.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program was passed into law in 2009 (enacted in 2011) and includes mandatory boat inspections at designated stations along Oregon's borders. According to ODFW, one focus of the inspection program is zebra and quagga mussels, which are known to clog intake pipes of power plants and water and irrigation systems and are virtually impossible to eradicate. In 2014, the National Sea Grant Law Center published a report containing the recommendation to require draining of all standing or captured water and to transport boats with plugs and valves open to facilitate drainage to minimize standing water that can support mussel survival.