

## SB 361 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Joint Committee On Transportation

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**Action Date:** 04/28/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

**Senate Vote**

**Yeas:** 5 - Gorsek, Meek, Pham, Starr, Weber

**House Vote**

**Yeas:** 5 - Gamba, Helfrich, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson

**Exc:** 2 - Boshart Davis, Evans

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/25, 4/28

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Business Development Department for distribution to the following ports to carry out dredging projects: Port of Brookings Harbor (\$50,000), Port of Bandon (\$225,000), Port of Newport (\$750,000), Port of Astoria (\$381,373), International Port of Coos Bay (\$350,000), and Port of Garibaldi (\$400,000). It stipulates that recipients must either utilize a dredge owned by the recipient or first receive a quote for dredging services from Oregon's state-owned dredge. It declares an emergency and is effective July 1, 2025.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Dredging needs at many ports
- Lack of sufficient funds at local level to pay for dredging

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment revises the list of allocations from the General Fund through the Oregon Business Development Department and expands the list of allocations to include: Port of Brookings Harbor (\$50,000), Port of Bandon (\$225,000), Port of Newport (\$750,000), Port of Astoria (\$381,373), International Port of Coos Bay (\$350,000), and Port of Garibaldi (\$400,000). It stipulates that recipients must either utilize a dredge owned by the recipient or first receive a quote for dredging services from Oregon's state-owned dredge.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon has a combined system of 23 public ports that serve as gateways through which Oregon products begin their journey to markets throughout the world. Nine ports operate on the Columbia River system, while there are also 14 coastal ports, including the deepwater ports of Newport and the International Port of Coos Bay. Ports also play important roles in economic development and tourism.

The navigation channel and bars of most ports must be dredged periodically to maintain their depth due to the natural buildup of silt deposits. Coastal jetties also require periodic maintenance in order to protect navigational access to smaller ports and harbors. The federal government provides periodic financial assistance to ports for dredging, and the Legislative Assembly has, over the years, provided funding assistance for small port dredging.

Senate Bill 361 A allocates moneys from the General Fund to the Port of Brookings Harbor (\$50,000), Port of Bandon (\$225,000), Port of Newport (\$750,000), Port of Astoria (\$381,373), International Port of Coos Bay (\$350,000), and the Port of Garibaldi (\$400,000) to carry out dredging projects.