

**HB 2977 A    STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Rep. Helm**House Committee On Revenue****Action Date:** 06/17/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 6-1-0-0**Yeas:** 6 - Hudson, Levy B, Marsh, Nathanson, Smith G, Walters**Nays:** 1 - Reschke**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Prepared By:** Michael Doughty, Economist**Meeting Dates:** 5/8, 6/17**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Renames the Oregon Conservation Strategy Subaccount as the Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund Subaccount. Increases the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.75%. Specifies the net revenue from 1.0 percentage points of the increase is to be distributed to the Recovering Wildlife Fund Subaccount. Specifies the net revenue from 0.25 percentage points of the increase is to be distributed to the Department of State Police, the Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Fishing and Wildlife, and the Department of Justice. Determines distributions from the 0.25 percent increase are to be used for wildlife stewardship, wolf management compensation, and combating poaching and invasive species. Directs revenues received by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as contributions for the Oregon Conservation Strategy or the Oregon Nearshore Strategy be transferred to the Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund Subaccount. Expands the use of the account to include promotion, implementation, or revision of the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Oregon Nearshore Strategy policies. Expands the use of the account to include nonfederal fund matching requirements of conservation or restoration programs designed for the recovery and management of species. Applies the increased tax on or after January 1, 2026. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Wildlife's potential positive impact on tourism
- Need for dedicated funding for wildlife diversity advocacy
- Potential risk of an increase in the transient lodging tax on tourism
- Ability of the legislature to modify the transient lodging tax

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Increase the transient lodging tax rate by 1.25 percentage points. Specifies the distribution and purposes of the increased revenues generated.

**BACKGROUND:**

A 1% transient lodging tax was established by HB 2267 (2003) to help fund Oregon Tourism Commission programs. In 2016, the legislature increased the tax from 1% to 1.8% for July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2020, and 1.5% thereafter. The lodging provider or intermediary collect and remit the tax. There are some exclusions from the tax including health care facilities, emergency shelters, and military facilities.