

# A-Engrossed Senate Bill 165

Ordered by the Senate April 9  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 9

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act amends and repeals laws about the State Land Board's power to claim title to historically filled lands. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.8).

Amends the requirements for the State Land Board to assert title to historically filled lands **or assert a right to minerals or geothermal resources in historically filled lands**. Repeals, **on January 2, 2029**, the provisions related to assertion of title to historically filled lands by the State Land Board that are required to be completed before December 31, 2025.

**Declares an emergency, effective on passage.**

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to historically filled lands; creating new provisions; amending ORS 274.915 and 274.950; repealing ORS 274.952, 274.954 and 274.956; and declaring an emergency.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 274.950 is amended to read:

274.950. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the State Land Board may not in any manner assert title to historically filled lands, *[as defined in ORS 274.905,]* **or assert a right to minerals or geothermal resources in the historically filled lands**, unless, prior to December 31, 2025:

(a) The board *[makes]* **has made** a declaration under ORS 274.954 **(2023 Edition)** that asserts title to the historically filled lands; and

(b) Notice of the board's declaration was given as required under ORS 274.956 **(2023 Edition)**.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) Historically filled lands, *as defined in ORS 274.905, over]* **for** which the State Land Board *[asserted]* **or the Department of State Lands has taken action to assert** title to prior to January 1, 2016;

(b) Historically filled lands fronting upon the Pacific Ocean; *[or]*

(c) Lands in that portion of the Lower Willamette River that includes the Portland Harbor Superfund Site; **or**

**(d) Historically filled lands within city limits, or the mineral and geothermal resource rights in those lands, zoned to allow for commercial, industrial or marine industrial uses on the effective date of this 2025 Act, that the board or the department has taken action to assert title to on or before December 31, 2028.**

*[(3) Nothing contained in ORS 274.950 to 274.956 shall divest the State of Oregon of its rights to*

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

*minerals, oil, gas and sulfur.]*

**(3) Notwithstanding ORS 273.780, unless the Department of State Lands determines that a significant mineral or geothermal resource exists in the historically filled lands:**

**(a) In a conveyance of historically filled lands, the department may not reserve mineral and geothermal resource rights claimed pursuant to this section; and**

**(b) Any mineral or geothermal resource rights in historically filled lands claimed pursuant to this section and reserved by the state prior to the effective date of this 2025 Act shall be released by the department and transferred to the owner of the historically filled lands.**

**(4) No later than December 31, 2028, the Department of State Lands may record a notice of historically filled lands with the county clerk of each county in this state. The notice shall:**

**(a) Include a summary of state-owned submerged and submersible lands within the county where historically filled lands may be located;**

**(b) State that the State Land Board may not assert title to any historically filled lands unless the requirements of subsection (1) of this section have been satisfied or an exception described in subsection (2) of this section applies;**

**(c) For any historically filled lands for which the requirements of subsection (1) of this section have been satisfied or an exception described in subsection (2) of this section applies, provide a legal description of the historically filled lands or a reference to a recorded survey;**

**(d) State that the state's ownership of the submerged and submersible lands adjacent to historically filled lands is the line of ordinary high water; and**

**(e) Provide contact information for the department for questions or inquiries related to historically filled lands.**

**(5) As used in this section and section 2 of this 2025 Act:**

**(a) "Geothermal resources" has the meaning given that term in ORS 522.005.**

**(b) "Historically filled lands" has the meaning given that term in ORS 274.905.**

**(c) "Mineral" has the meaning given that term in ORS 273.775.**

**SECTION 2. (1) In any negotiation with a property owner affected by a declaration under ORS 274.954 regarding historically filled lands described in ORS 274.950 (2)(d), the Department of State Lands shall prioritize the goal of public access to the waterway and need not obtain the fair market value of the historically filled lands.**

**(2) Notwithstanding ORS 273.780, the department may convey the mineral and geothermal resource rights of property conveyed pursuant to this section.**

**SECTION 3. ORS 274.952, 274.954 and 274.956 are repealed.**

**SECTION 4. ORS 274.915 is amended to read:**

**274.915. (1) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 274.905 to 274.940, the Department of State Lands may sell, lease or trade submersible or submerged lands owned by the state in the same manner as provided for submersible lands in this chapter or ORS chapter 273.**

**(2) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 274.905 to 274.940, the department may sell, lease or trade new lands created upon submersible or submerged lands owned by the state in the same manner as provided for lands acquired as an investment for the Common School Fund in ORS 273.117 or ORS chapter 273.**

**(3) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 274.905 to 274.940 and 274.950 [to 274.956], the State Land Board shall adopt rules under which the department may sell, lease or trade historically filled lands owned by the state.**

**SECTION 5. The amendments to ORS 274.915 by section 4 of this 2025 Act and the repeal**

1 of ORS 274.952, 274.954 and 274.956 by section 3 of this 2025 Act become operative on January  
2 2, 2029.

3 SECTION 6. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
4 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect  
5 on its passage.  
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