

# Senate Bill 713

Sponsored by Senator GORSEK; Representative NELSON (Pre-session filed.)

## 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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act would issue lottery bonds to fund levee projects. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.7).

Authorizes the issuance of lottery bonds for deposit in the Levee Project Grant Fund.  
Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to levees; creating new provisions; amending ORS 285B.421; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, at the request of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue lottery bonds pursuant to ORS 286A.560 to 286A.585 in an amount that produces \$15 million in net proceeds and interest earnings for the purposes described in subsection (2) of this section, plus an additional amount estimated by the State Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.**

**(2) Net proceeds of lottery bonds issued under this section must be transferred to the Oregon Business Development Department for deposit in the Levee Project Grant Fund established under ORS 285B.421, to be used for any purpose for which funds in the Levee Project Grant Fund may be used, including but not limited to awarding grants for investigating the adequacy of levees and improving levees so they may be certified and accredited.**

**(3) Lottery bonds authorized under this section must be issued no later than June 30, 2026.**

**(4) The Legislative Assembly finds that the use of lottery bond proceeds will create jobs, further economic development, finance public education or restore and protect parks, beaches, watersheds and native fish and wildlife, and is authorized based on the following findings:**

**(a) Levees are an integral part of the commercial and industrial infrastructure of this state.**

**(b) The inspection, accreditation, certification and repair of levees will promote economic development within this state.**

**SECTION 2.** ORS 285B.421 is amended to read:

285B.421. (1) The Levee Project Grant Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Levee Project Grant Fund must be credited to the fund. The Levee Project Grant Fund consists of moneys deposited in the fund under section 33, chapter 671, Oregon Laws 2019, **and section 1 of this 2025 Act** and may include moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise

**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.

1 and interest earned on moneys in the fund.

2 (2) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Development De-  
3 partment for the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to provide grants under ORS 285B.420 for  
4 levee projects as defined in ORS 285B.410.

5 (3) Grants from the fund for planning projects are limited to a maximum of \$2 million per ap-  
6 plicant per biennium.

7 (4) Grants from the fund for construction or capital improvement projects may not exceed an  
8 amount equal to 80 percent of the total cost of the project.

9 (5) A grant may not be awarded from the fund unless the applicant pledges matching funds to  
10 the project of at least 20 percent of the amount of the grant.

11 (6) At least 60 percent of the dollar value of grants awarded from the fund in any biennium shall  
12 be used to provide assistance with levee projects to rural or distressed areas as those terms are  
13 defined in ORS 285A.010.

14 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
15 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**  
16 **July 1, 2025.**

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