

SB 1525 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Gomberg**Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Action Date:** 03/02/26**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.**House Vote****Yeas:** 11 - Bowman, Breese-Iverson, Elmer, Evans, Gomberg, Nosse, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Smith G, Valderrama**Exc:** 2 - Levy E, Reschke**Senate Vote****Yeas:** 10 - Anderson, Campos, Frederick, Lieber, Manning Jr, McLane, Neron Misslin, Smith DB, Sollman, Starr**Exc:** 1 - Girod**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Haylee Morse-Miller, Fiscal Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/27, 3/2**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure establishes the Blue Economy Task Force to study and report on Oregon's blue economy sectors, existing economic development plans and strategies, and opportunities to support the growth of sustainable blue economy businesses while maintaining the health of Oregon's coastal ecosystems. The measure also authorizes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to create and maintain a nonprofit organization. The measure takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Establishes the Blue Economy Task Force, consisting of no fewer than 13 members appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives. Requires the task force to include one senator and one representative, one of whom must be a member of the coastal caucus, along with representatives from the following:

- Public or private research institutions
- Businesses innovating in blue economy sectors
- Commercial and noncommercial fisheries businesses
- Recreational activities
- Tourism industry
- Environmental organizations
- Equity investors in blue economy businesses
- Coastal labor
- Sea Grant College of Oregon State University
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes located on the Oregon Coast

Requires the chair of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) or their designee to serve on the task force.

Requires the task force's report to include the following:

- Synthesis of relevant studies, market analyses, and federal and state programs
- Identification of existing state and local initiatives to determine where existing efforts could be expanded into a unified strategic plan
- Review of other states' or countries' efforts to identify best practices
- Prioritized recommendations

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- An implementation roadmap

Requires the task force to submit a report to the legislature's interim committees related to the environment and to OPAC no later than September 15, 2027. Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support and contract for necessary services. Repeals the task force on December 31, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to Business Oregon's "[Ocean Resources and the Blue Market Analysis](#)" report, "The blue economy comprises the many sustainable economic activities, innovations, and emerging markets that depend on the ocean, shoreline, and estuaries directly along the Oregon coast." The analysis estimates that Oregon's blue economy generated \$3.1 billion in gross domestic product in 2019. This estimate includes but is not limited to the following activities: aquaculture, energy, fishing, food production and processing, research and development, marine transportation, and tourism.

In 2013, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 747, which established the Oregon Ocean Science Trust. The trust's duties are to promote peer-reviewed ocean and coastal research and monitoring; promote innovative, collaborative approaches to research and monitoring; enhance Oregon's capacity for peer-reviewed scientific ocean and coastal research; and, subject to available funding, administer a competitive grant program for ocean and coastal research and monitoring.