

HB 3149 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to cooperate with other interested stakeholders to develop action plan to complete Oregon Coast Trail. Provides requirements for action plan. Directs Parks and ODOT to coordinate with nonprofit organizations to raise funds and complete all aspects of action plan. Establishes Oregon Coast Trail Fund and authorizes gifts, grants, appropriations and donations to be deposited in fund for purposes of developing and implementing action plan. Requires Parks and ODOT to submit action plan to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic impacts of tourism on the Oregon Coast
- Natural beauty of Oregon Coast
- Examples of similar trails around the world

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies that moneys from Oregon Coast Trail Fund may be used to develop and implement action plan, as well as develop, maintain and operate Oregon Coast Trail and trail facilities. Specifies progress report on development of action plan to be submitted to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018 and final action plan to be submitted to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019.

-2 Reduces the level of involvement of Oregon Department of Transportation in development of Oregon Coast Trail.

BACKGROUND:

In 1971, the Oregon Recreation Trails System Act was passed to provide for outdoor recreation needs of residents and tourists and to promote public access to outdoor treasures of Oregon. The Oregon Coast Trail is one of the trails resulting from the act, and it offers hiking across beaches, forests and headlands. Most of the route is on the beach, although some segments wind through state parks, public lands and sometimes private property.

The Oregon Coast Trail is designed to extend along the entire coast from Washington to California. Currently, less than 60 miles of trail, much of which stretches along the shoulder of Highway 101, remains unfinished.

House Bill 3149 would direct the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) and Department of Transportation (ODOT) to cooperate with stakeholders to develop an action plan to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. The bill would establish the Oregon Coast Trail Fund and require Parks and ODOT to report back to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018 with a detailed plan that includes recommendations for trail location, funding and agency oversight.