

SB 432 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/19, 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes State Treasurer, at the request of the Oregon Business Development Department, to issue lottery bonds in an amount that produces \$10 million in net proceeds and interest earnings for purposes for which funds in the Levee Project Subaccount of the Special Public Works Fund may be used. Requires bond issuance no later than June 30, 2020. Makes legislative finding that levees are a vital component of the state's infrastructure and play an essential role in furthering economic development and protecting parks, beaches, watersheds, and native fish and wildlife; and thereby finds that purposes of measure are an appropriate use of lottery funds. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

Subsequent referral to Joint Ways and Means

Fiscal statement issued

Revenue statement issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for levee maintenance and repair statewide
- New federal standards enacted after Hurricane Katrina
- Federal funding decision criteria include level of state support

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A levee is a man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed to contain, control, and divert the flow of water to reduce risk from temporary flooding. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, when new flood maps are being issued for a community with a levee system and the levee is found to no longer meet federal standards for reducing the risks associated with a major flood, the flood risk around the levee is mapped as a high-risk area. Property owners in high-risk areas are subject to federal flood insurance requirements once the new maps take effect and must purchase a flood insurance policy if they have mortgages from a federally regulated or insured lender.

Senate Bill 432 would authorize the State Treasurer to issue lottery bonds in an amount that produces \$10 million in net proceeds and interest earnings for purposes for which funds in the Levee Project Subaccount of the Special Public Works Fund may be used.