



DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

2015 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

The Department of State Lands' five agency-sponsored bills and the Governor's Balanced Budget for the agency were approved by the 2015 Legislature. In addition, other legislation passed that will affect agency programs and services, and involve rulemaking.

DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED BILLS

SB 249: Allows DSL to continue selling wetland mitigation credits in watersheds where a state-sponsored bank was developed, and where a private mitigation bank subsequently was established.

HB 2460: Establishes an administrative fee for processing utility easement applications.

HB 2461: Amends ORS 274.043 to add back language inadvertently removed in 2011 to allow DSL to offer lower-cost registrations for certain waterway structures on state-owned land.

HB 2462: Allows DSL to keep an electronic copy (as opposed to a hard copy) of other agencies' real estate transactions.

HB 2463: Creates a Submerged Land Enhancement Fund for removing derelict structures and marine debris on state-owned waterways.

OTHER LEGISLATION

SB 912: Establishes a process for the State Land Board to identify and declare the state's interest in historically filled lands and to provide notice of such declaration. The bill provides funding for the agency in the 2015-17 biennium to begin this multi-year process. The legislation was based on recommendations from the Filled Lands Advisory Group that reported on its work to the State Land Board in June 2014. At its June 2015 meeting, the Board authorized the Department to initiate rulemaking to implement the FLAG recommendations.

SB 319: Consolidates review and permitting for renewable ocean energy projects within the Territorial Sea with the Department of State Lands. The bill also eliminated the water right and hydroelectric license requirement from the Oregon Water Resources Department for such projects.

HB 3315: Requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to track costs incurred in providing services to executive department agencies, beginning Jan. 1, 2016. The agency cannot bill other agencies until after July 1, 2019.

Legislation related to the Elliott State Forest and suction dredging did not advance in 2015.

DSL 2015-17 BUDGET (HB 5037)

The Legislature approved a \$48 million two-year budget, which is about 6 percent higher than the previous biennial budget. New or enhanced program funding was allocated for the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup process; improving internal accounting controls; replacing and upgrading computer and communications equipment; converting rangeland in southeast Oregon to agricultural uses; and aligning the science and education positions at the South Slough Reserve.

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