

Senate Bill 255

Sponsored by Senator ROBLAN, Representatives SMITH DB, MCKEOWN; Senator HEARD, Representative GOMBERG (Presession 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**.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at University of Oregon.
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Oregon Institute of Marine Biology funding; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas the University of Oregon has been teaching and conducting research in marine biology
4 on the Southern Oregon coast since the 1920s; and

5 Whereas in 1929 the Army Corps of Engineers deeded a portion of the Coos Head Military
6 Reservation to the University of Oregon to serve as the permanent home of the university's marine
7 biology program; and

8 Whereas, aside from a brief interruption during World War II, the location and facilities have
9 supported research from both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University for nearly 100
10 years; and

11 Whereas since the late 1960s the University of Oregon has operated the Oregon Institute of
12 Marine Biology as a year-round research and teaching facility; and

13 Whereas the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology was instrumental in the establishment of the
14 South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) and maintains a substantial collab-
15 oration with the organization concerning both research and public education; and

16 Whereas the research done by faculty and students at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
17 complements the academic inquiry that occurs at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science
18 Center in Newport, Oregon; and

19 Whereas the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology and its Charleston Marine Life Center serve
20 as cornerstone educational facilities for K-12, undergraduate, graduate and public education; and

21 Whereas the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology brings significant federal funding and numerous
22 visitors to the Oregon Coast and is a cornerstone of the economy in the Charleston, Coos Bay and
23 North Bend communities; and

24 Whereas the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology offers the only undergraduate marine biology
25 major in this state; and

26 Whereas the undergraduate marine biology major offered by the Oregon Institute of Marine
27 Biology is rapidly growing and highly ranked nationally; and

28 Whereas the teaching programs at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology prepare Oregon stu-
29 dents with the skills and knowledge to enter the workforce in natural resource fields and to work
30 for state and federal public agencies; and

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 Whereas modern, safe research vessels are essential to ensuring that students and faculty have
2 access to important research and teaching sites in Oregon estuaries and the Oregon territorial sea;
3 and

4 Whereas the Oregon Legislative Assembly has demonstrated a commitment to marine
5 infrastructure for public universities; now, therefore,

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

7 **SECTION 1. There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for**
8 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, for the**
9 **Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Oregon for the purpose of leveraging**
10 **private investment and replacing a research vessel at the institute.**

11 **SECTION 2. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
12 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
13 **on July 1, 2019.**

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