

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Herzog, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/16, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the expansion of pilot projects allowing the temporary transfer of water rights to an additional 12 irrigation districts: Central Oregon, Westland, North Unit, Arnold, Stanfield, West Extension, Hermiston, Medford, Sutherlin, Santiam, and Ochoco. Requires that the Water Resources Department (WRD) report to the 78th Legislative Assembly. Extends the sunset for pilot project to June 30, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pilot program provides flexibility to manage water within districts
- Criteria for participation
- Potential to relieve administrative work for WRD

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: The 2003 Legislature enacted a pilot project allowing for the temporary transfer of water rights between existing water right holders within eligible irrigation district boundaries. The program allows irrigators to transfer their water rights on an annual basis without being subject to a formal transfer process or fee assessment. Three irrigation districts currently qualify and have participated in water right transfers: Owyhee, Talent, and Tualatin Valley.