

HB 3326 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 4/4, 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares harmful algal blooms to be a threat to safe drinking water and public health. Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to address harmful algal blooms. Directs OHA, in coordination with DEQ, to identify water sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms; develop a system for regular monitoring and testing of susceptible water sources, prioritizing sources of domestic and municipal drinking water and bodies of water accessed by the public for recreation; and develop a protocol for issuing hazard advisory alerts to the public in the event of a harmful algal bloom. Directs DEQ, in coordination with OHA, to develop and maintain a coordinated state agency strategy for harmful algal bloom monitoring and response; produce timely and high-quality data to allow OHA to determine the level of risk to public health; maintain a publicly accessible clearinghouse of all data related to harmful algal blooms; identify sources of pollutants that contribute to occurrences of harmful algal blooms; develop strategies for reducing said pollutants; and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented for reducing pollutants. Appropriates \$983,919 to DEQ to carry out provisions of this Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces measure. Appropriates \$983,919 to DEQ for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 to fund laboratory services for public water systems that are susceptible to hazardous algal blooms. Appropriates \$_____ to OHA for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 to hire a recreational hazardous algal bloom coordinator. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2109.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

Harmful algal blooms are caused by high concentrations of certain types of algae that can produce toxic compounds. These blooms can cause sickness and death in humans, pets, and livestock who come into contact with or drink the water. Blooms can also result in hypoxia, or low oxygen, in water bodies, which can kill fish and other wildlife. The Oregon Health Authority is the agency responsible for posting warnings and educating the public about harmful algal blooms. Once a body of water has been identified as having a harmful algal bloom, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for investigating the causes, identifying sources of pollution, and writing a pollution reduction plan.

House Bill 3326 would direct OHA and DEQ to coordinate to address harmful algal blooms in Oregon. The bill would direct OHA to identify water bodies susceptible to harmful algal blooms, to develop a system to monitor and test such water bodies, and to develop a protocol for alerting the public when a harmful algal bloom occurs. The bill would direct DEQ to develop a state strategy for responding to harmful algal blooms, produce timely and high-quality data to allow OHA to calculate level of public health risk, maintain a clearinghouse with data on harmful algal blooms, and identify and work to address pollutants that contribute to harmful algal blooms. House Bill 3326 would appropriate \$983,919 to carry out provisions of this Act.