

SB 884 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 6/5, 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes qualified institutions to apply for a loan from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to finance projects to repair or replace failing on-site septic systems or to replace failing on-site septic systems with connections to an available sewer. Defines "qualified institution" to mean a non-profit organization registered to operate in Oregon that is certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institution Fund at the U.S. Department of Treasury. Specifies operative date of Act is January 1, 2020. Authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules or take any action before the operative date to enable the Act to be carried out on January 1, 2020. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Merits of the bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A septic system is the most common method of sewage treatment for homes and businesses that are not connected to an area-wide sewage treatment system. Over 30 percent of Oregonians rely on septic systems to treat wastewater from their homes and businesses. Septic systems which fail or malfunction can pollute Oregon's land and waterways with raw sewage and create public health hazards.

The Oregon Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, now known as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, provides low-interest loans to local governments for the planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities; the implementation of nonpoint source pollution management plans; and the design and implementation of estuary management plans. Since the program began in 1988, nearly 400 communities have benefited from more than a billion dollars of infrastructure investments.

The measure would authorize qualified institutions to apply for a loan from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to finance projects to repair or replace failing on-site septic systems or to replace failing on-site septic systems with connections to an available sewer.