

House Bill 2856

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (at the request of Representative Ken Helm)

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 Water Resources Department to study ground water in this state. Directs department to provide 10-year plan to Legislative Assembly that prioritizes ground water studies. Directs department to report to Legislative Assembly detailing use of appropriated funds.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to ground water studies; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas the state integrated water resources strategy recognizes that Oregon has a need for additional ground water investigations to further understand the relationship between ground water and surface water and the availability of both; and

Whereas the state integrated water resources strategy provides that conducting ground water investigations is a priority of this state; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$9,000,000 for ground water studies and investigations or the gathering and analysis of other ground water data that is needed to assess and manage Oregon's ground water resources in the priority basins as determined by the department.

SECTION 2. Not later than September 15, 2020, and September 15, 2021, the Water Resources Department shall submit to the Legislative Assembly, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, a report detailing how the moneys appropriated under section 1 of this 2019 Act have been spent.

SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2020, the Water Resources Department shall submit to the Legislative Assembly a 10-year plan that prioritizes ground water studies throughout this state and details any additional legislative investment necessary to implement the studies.

SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.

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.