HB 3102 -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Water

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to purchase one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument (instrument) to analyze water samples and appropriates moneys to DEQ for that purpose. Directs DEQ to create, fill, and utilize at least one seasonal position to collect water samples and assist with analysis of samples, and appropriates moneys to DEQ for that purpose. Directs DEQ, to the extent reasonably practicable, to make the instrument available to institutions of higher education for purposes of education, training, or research during times it is not needed by DEQ. Authorizes DEQ to assist with or participate in uses of the instrument by higher education institutions. Directs DEQ to report to interim legislative committee related to water by November 30, 2021 regarding preparations to coordinate use of the instrument by institutions of higher education and describing actions that may be taken by DEQ or Legislative Assembly to coordinate state government agency response to harmful algal blooms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Adds requirement that DEQ purchase one nutrient analyzer system instrument. Appropriates to DEQ the amount of $160,000 for the purpose of purchasing one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer instrument; $65,000 for the purpose of purchasing one nutrient analyzer instrument; and $363,005 for the purpose of filling two positions within the department to assist with water sampling and analysis.

-3 Increases from one to two the number of positions that DEQ is directed to create, fill, and utilize to collect water samples and assist with analysis of samples. Appropriates to DEQ the amount of $160,000 for the purpose of purchasing one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer instrument; and $363,005 for the purpose of filling two positions within the department to assist with water sampling and analysis.

BACKGROUND:

Harmful algal blooms are caused by high concentrations of certain types of algae that produce toxic compounds known as cyanotoxins. These blooms can cause sickness and death in humans, pets, and livestock who come into contact with or drink the contaminated water. Blooms can also result in hypoxia, or low oxygen, in water bodies, which can kill fish and other wildlife.

Oregon is experiencing increasing numbers of harmful algal blooms, including blooms on the North Santiam River that impact drinking water quality for the City of Salem in 2018. In response to this, a work group, comprised of stakeholders whose work intersects with either drinking water quality or recreational water quality, began in 2019 to consider short-term and long-term strategies for addressing harmful algal blooms and related impacts to Oregonians.

House Bill 3102 would direct DEQ to purchase one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument and create, fill, and utilize at least one seasonal position to assist with water sampling and analysis.