

HB 3105 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$100,000 to Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 2, 2021, to assist completion of place-based integrated water resources strategy, periodically update place-based integrated water resources strategy to inform updates to state integrated water resources strategy, or facilitate implementation of place-based integrated water resources strategy. Sunsets July 1, 2023. Establishes that Act takes effect on the 91st day after the 2021 regular session adjourns sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and elements of place-based planning program
- Funding needs for program to reach completion in each basin
- Importance of retaining experienced program facilitators
- Level of group involvement, especially while utilizing a virtual platform

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Changes amount of appropriation from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature authorized the Water Resources Department to pilot a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to specific water resource needs and challenges of the location in which planning efforts take place. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify knowledge gaps; examine current and future water needs for people, place, and nature; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to addressing water needs; and develop a place-based integrated water resources plan.

In 2019, the legislature passed House Bill 2084, which extended the sunset date of the place-based integrated water resources planning program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. Current grant recipients participating in the program include the Harney County Watershed Council in the Malheur Lake Basin, Union County in the Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin, Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District in the Lower John Day Sub-Basin, and the Seal Rock Water District in the Mid-Coast Basin.

House Bill 3105 would appropriate \$100,000 to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning on July 2, 2021, to assist with updates, implementation, and completion of a place-based integrated water resources strategy.