

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: HB 2018 - 1**

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller  
Reviewed by: Matt Stayner  
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**Measure Description:**

Instructs Water Resources Department to enter into agreement with United States Geological Survey to produce and publish ground water budgets for all major hydrologic basins in this state, contract for person to produce report on statewide consumptive water use, establish ground water level monitoring network and measure progress in estimating and monitoring ground water levels and ground water use.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Water Resources Department (WRD)

**Analysis:**

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Water to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 2018 - 1 directs the Water Resources Department (WRD) to enter into a cost-matching agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop and publish ground water budgets for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon. WRD is to contract for a peer-reviewed report on statewide consumptive water use that summarizes historical irrigation water use for all irrigated fields, and estimates open water evaporation from all major reservoirs in this state between 1984 and 2020. WRD is also directed to expand the ground water level monitoring network to improve estimates of changes in ground water storage, and to measure progress in estimating and monitoring ground water levels, ground water recharge, and consumptive ground water. This is to be accomplished by publishing reports that quantify ground water recharge for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon; production of maps and datasets that quantify open water evaporation from all major reservoirs in Oregon; collection and processing of data regarding baseline ground water levels and use; and assessment of the time and cost to conduct ground water basin studies. WRD staff are directed to serve as community engagement coordinators to help communities provide data and use data collected by the Department. This measure sunsets on January 2, 2032.

Initial WRD estimates are that this measure will require nine positions (5.75 FTE in 2021-23, 9.00 FTE in 2023-25); and cost \$2,404,058 General Fund in 2021-23, and \$3,101,545 General Fund in 2023-25. However, further analysis of this measure is required before a more definitive fiscal impact statement can be produced.

A more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Further Analysis Required