

**HB 3089 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Water**

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**Prepared By:** Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund. Appropriates moneys in fund to Housing and Community Services Department. Appropriates \$15,000,000 to Department, for biennium beginning July 1, 2021, to deposit into Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund. Directs Department to provide grants to qualified organizations, including nonprofit community-based organizations and municipal utilities providing domestic water or sewer service, to distribute water and bill pay assistance to low-income residential households.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Households across Oregon face financial hardships in paying water and sewer bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many water utility providers have ceased disconnections of water and sewer service, but now see increases in the number of delinquent accounts.

House Bill 3089 would establish a Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund to provide grants to organizations to distribute water and sewer bill payment assistance to low-income residential households.