

## HB 2615 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Water

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/25, 4/13

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Water Resources Department to review water measurement collection processes, access to and use of water measurement data, funding and frequency of water measurement data collection, criteria for persons subject to water measurement and reporting requirements, and criteria for persons subject to same requirements who are not measuring water and reporting requirements. Requires Department to present findings to committee or interim committee related to water no later than September 15, 2022. Repeals review requirements on January 2, 2023.

*FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact.*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Process of water measurement and reporting
- Need for better water use data statewide

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Under Oregon law, all water belongs to the public and is to be used for a beneficial purpose without waste. With some exceptions, water users must obtain a water right to use water from any source. When water is scarce, water users are allocated water based on the date of their water right, with holders of the oldest water rights allocated water first, and holders of newer water rights receiving their allocation according to the availability of water. Many water rights include conditions that require the water user to submit data to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy provides an approach to meeting the state's instream and out-of-stream water needs. The need for better data and water use measurement is highlighted throughout the Strategy as a tool to protect existing water right holders, facilitate future water resource planning, maximize the beneficial uses of instream and out-of-stream users, and prevent costly conflicts over water use.

House Bill 2615 would direct the Water Resources Department to review water measurement data collection, retention, use and reporting, and report to a legislative committee no later than September 15, 2022.