

HB 3293 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

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Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines "water project support" to mean planning, technical assistance, or financial support related to a water project by one the following providers: Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Business Development Department, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, or the Water Resources Department (WRD). Defines "water project" to include watershed enhancement, instream flow protection or enhancement, water resource conservation or development, or water supply, and wastewater treatment and disposal projects. Authorizes water project support provider (provider) to make water project support available to local organizations and governments to develop and implement community engagement plans related to a water project. Requires that community engagement plans supported by provider utilize goals and approaches for increased participation of disproportionately impacted communities in decisions related to identification, scoping, design and implementation of water projects. Directs each provider, in coordination with other providers, to adopt and administer rules recognizing best practices for use by the provider, local organizations, and local governments to ensure community engagement planning activities are carried out, and to update those rules as necessary. Authorizes provider to condition support for community engagement planning on local organization or government use of best practices to develop a plan for water project decision-making that invites and supports broad community participation, including disproportionately impacted communities and tribal participation; establishes specific goals for equitable participation and decision-making, and identifies specific approaches for use in meeting those goals; and provides periodic reporting on achievement of best practices in decision-making. Directs WRD to oversee coordination process among providers and ensure that coordination process occurs at least once every five years.

House Vote: Ayes, 54; Excused, 6--Levy, Lively, Morgan, Nearman, Reynolds, Wallan

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of engaging disproportionately impacted communities in water project planning
- Requirement for agencies to develop best practices related to equitable and meaningful participation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Community engagement focuses on initiatives that provide information, education, and awareness to the community; seek input, opinions, and preferences from the community; and build active and connected participation and decision-making. In the case of community water projects, this approach aims to explore a community's vision for local water practices and help find specific policy options that meet those needs.

House Bill 3293 A would authorize state agencies identified as water project support providers to make support available to local organizations and governments to develop local community engagement plans for water projects using best practices related to equitable and meaningful inclusion in water project planning and

decision-making.

PRELIMINARY