

HB 2142 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Matt Stayner, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

HB 2142 increases fees charged by the Water Resources Department that support water right processing and dam safety programs by approximately 17.39 percent. The fees would be effective as of July 1, 2021. The measure also adds a fee per well, for transfer applications that propose to make changes for more than one well. This change aligns the fee structure with how fees are calculated for new water right permit applications.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the legislature restructured many of Oregon Water Resources Department's water right fees. The Department has since brought forward legislation to modify the water right transactions fee schedule every four years. The current fee schedule, enacted in 2017, provides revenues of about \$2.4 million to fund 24 positions in the Water Right Services Division, the Groundwater Section of the Technical Services Division, and the Information Services section of the Administrative Services Division. HB 2142 proposes to use the same funding model for fee increases as was approved by the legislature in 2013 and 2017, with the Water Rights Services Division supported by a 50/50 split between General Fund and fees, and fees increased by the cost inflation estimates provided by the Department of Administrative Services