FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

Prepared by:	Haylee Morse-Miller
Reviewed by:	John Terpening
Date:	March 2, 2021

Measure Description:

Appropriates moneys to Department of Environmental Quality to award grant for on-site septic system lowinterest loan programs and to cover related administrative costs.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$2,000,000	\$0
Total Funds	\$2,000,000	\$0
Positions	0	0
FTE	0.00	0.00

Analysis:

HB 3090 appropriates \$2 million General Fund to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Of these funds, at least \$1.95 million are to be awarded as a grant, and the remainder may be used to cover administrative costs.

SB 1563 (2016) established a loan program to repair, replace, upgrade, or evaluate certain residential or small business on-site septic systems and was funded by a one-time \$250,000 General Fund appropriation included in the measure. In 2017, SB 5518 included a one-time appropriation of \$1.5 million General Fund to DEQ to continue this program, with at least \$1.3 million going to loans, and up to \$200,000 available for program administrative costs. The 2016 and 2017 appropriation were awarded as grants to Craft3, a regional non-profit financial institution that distributes these funds as loans. Loans are used by households and small businesses to upgrade septic systems. DEQ estimates that the funding included in this measure could provide for repair or replacement of approximately 100 onsite septic systems.

SB 884 (2019) provided the necessary statutory changes to allow DEQ to utilize monies in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for this loan program, which is intended to provide a more reliable and significantly larger amount of money to use for the program than historically one-time General Fund. DEQ is currently in rulemaking around this change.

Administration of this measure will require ongoing program oversight and invoice processing, as well as Department of Justice charges. Administrative tasks can be absorbed by existing staff.

This measure has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways on Means.