

HB 3102 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Water

Action Date: 03/11/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Breese-Iverson, Helm, Leif, Owens, Reardon, Reynolds, Wilde, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to purchase one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument to analyze water samples and appropriates \$160,000 to DEQ for that purpose. Directs DEQ to purchase one nutrient analyzer system instrument and appropriates \$65,000 to DEQ for that purpose. Directs DEQ to create, fill, and utilize two positions to collect water samples and assist with analysis of samples, and appropriates \$363,005 to DEQ for that purpose. Directs DEQ, to the extent reasonably practicable, to make the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument available to institutions of higher education for purposes of education, training, or research during times it is not needed by DEQ. Authorizes DEQ to assist with or participate in uses of the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument by higher education institutions. Directs DEQ to report to interim legislative committee related to water by November 30, 2021 regarding preparations to coordinate use of the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument by institutions of higher education and describing actions that may be taken by DEQ or Legislative Assembly to coordinate state government agency response to harmful algal blooms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Additional staffing needs
- Harmful algal blooms (HABs) work group process
- HABs impacts to drinking water and recreational water
- Statewide approach to testing for presence of HABs
- Long-term recommendations for coordinating response to HABs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds requirement that DEQ purchase one nutrient analyzer system instrument. Appropriates \$160,000 to DEQ to purchase one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument; \$65,000 to purchase one nutrient analyzer system instrument; and \$363,005 to fill two positions within the department to assist with water sampling and analysis.

BACKGROUND:

Harmful algal blooms are caused by high concentrations of certain types of algae that produce toxic compounds known as cyanotoxins. These blooms can cause sickness and death in humans, pets, and livestock who come into contact with or drink the contaminated water. Blooms can also result in hypoxia, or low oxygen, in water bodies, which can kill fish and other wildlife.

Oregon is experiencing increasing numbers of harmful algal blooms, including blooms on the North Santiam River that impacted drinking water quality for the City of Salem in 2018. In response to this, a work group, comprised of stakeholders whose work intersects with either drinking water quality or recreational water quality, began in 2019 to consider short-term and long-term strategies for addressing harmful algal blooms and related impacts to

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Oregonians.

House Bill 3102 A would direct the Department of Environmental Quality to purchase one cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument and one nutrient analyzer system instrument, and to create, fill, and utilize two positions to assist with water sampling and analysis.