

HB 2251 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Water

Action Date: 04/13/21

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

Vote: 7-1-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Helm, Leif, Owens, Reardon, Reynolds, Wilde, Witt

Nays: 1 - Breese-Iverson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Water Resources Department (WRD) to provide staff support to work through complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in water basins, including the Deschutes River and Willamette River. Appropriates \$450,000 to WRD, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for this purpose. Directs Governor's office to work with Regional Solutions Program to convene and support a bi-state task force, and appropriates \$500,000 to the Governor's office, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for this purpose. Directs Water Resources Commission (Commission) chair and two members of House Committee on Water, in consultation with a neutral facilitation team, to co-convene a Regional Water Planning and Management Task Force charged with developing a framework for state-supported water planning and management. Directs Task Force to use a neutral facilitator provided by the Oregon Consensus program of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University and appropriates \$200,000 to the Oregon Consensus program for this purpose. Establishes processes for developing and implementing Task Force. Directs WRD and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to provide staff support to Task Force. Appropriates \$600,000, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for purposes related to the Regional Water Planning and Management Task Force. Directs Task Force, on or before September 15, 2022, to submit report on recommendations to the Commission and House Committee on Water. Directs WRD to award grants to federally recognized Indian tribes in the state and county governments interested in convening community water forums with local partners. Appropriates \$550,000, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for awarding grants. Establishes processes and purposes of community water forums. Directs Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), in coordination with WRD, OWEB, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to provide staff support to community water forums. Appropriates \$150,000 to AOC, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for this purpose. Sunsets June 30, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of water management in Oregon
- Need for stakeholder engagement when developing future water strategies
- Assessment of the need to fund regional water planning goals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Water Resources Commission is responsible for devising integrated and coordinated plans and programs to promote and secure the maximum beneficial use of the water resources in Oregon, including in-stream and

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out-of-stream uses. The Water Resources Department has organized the state by administrative basins and, within those basins, works to address state water supply needs and restore and protect stream flows and watersheds for long-term sustainability. One such practice for ensuring long-term sustainability is water use planning, where the goal is to find a balance between competing uses of water, such as domestic water supply, fish and wildlife, and recreational needs.

House Bill 2251 A would appropriate moneys to the Water Resources Department, the office of the Governor, and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for purposes related to convening community water forums and a Regional Water Planning and Management Task Force.