

# Senate Bill 22

Sponsored by Senator FINDLEY (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Water Resources Commission to develop and adopt by rule regional water management pilot program that allows regions to establish voluntary water management.  
Sunsets pilot program on January 2, 2030.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to a regional water management pilot program.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Commission shall develop and adopt by rule a re-**  
5 **gional water management pilot program that allows regions to establish voluntary water**  
6 **management.**

7 (2) Rules adopted by the commission to implement the program must:

8 (a) Establish mechanisms for mitigation and exchange to codify water user agreements  
9 among water users in the same region;

10 (b) Create a framework that regions may voluntarily adopt to allow for protection of  
11 exchanged water and recognition of exchanged water as an in-stream mitigation credit to the  
12 receiving water user;

13 (c) Allow persons holding valid water rights or water right certificates to apply for per-  
14 mission to use stored, surface or ground water from another source in the same region in  
15 exchange for supplying replacement water in equal amounts to satisfy prior appropriations  
16 from the other sources;

17 (d) Allow persons to apply for an exchange among any combination of surface, storage  
18 or ground water rights; and

19 (e) Require that applications for exchange be accompanied by maps, documentation and  
20 other information necessary to ensure that requested exchanges do not cause injury to other  
21 water rights or enlarge water rights.

22 **SECTION 2. The Water Resources Commission shall prepare and submit a report in the**  
23 **manner provided in ORS 192.245 on the implementation of the regional water management**  
24 **pilot program, that may include recommendations for legislation, to a committee or interim**  
25 **committee of the Legislative Assembly related to water:**

26 (1) On or before September 15, 2025; and

27 (2) On or before September 15, 2029.

28 **SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2, 2030.**

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.