

HB 4067 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Carrier: Rep. Grayber

Action Date: 02/10/22
Action: Do Pass.
Vote: 6-0-0-0
Yeas: 6 - Evans, George, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wright
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Revises organizational and financial provisions related to governing board for urban flood safety and water quality district. Authorizes district to bring civil action under certain conditions. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intention to speed transition from drainage districts to flood safety district
- Transitioning from initial board to permanent elected board

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 431 (2019) established the urban flood safety and water quality district in Multnomah County to manage and improve the region's levee system infrastructure and to improve and protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and landscape resiliency. Prior to the district's creation, the 27-mile system of levees stretching from North Portland to the eastern metro area had been maintained by four local drainage districts that lacked the resources to provide for more than basic operations and that were unable to finance capital improvements. As a result, the region's levees fell out of compliance with federal standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency after catastrophic levee failures in other regions of the country.

House Bill 4067 reorganizes statutes related to the governing board for the urban flood safety and water quality district. The measure is intended to foster the transition from the initial board, which replaced the four previous drainage districts, to the permanent board, provide clarification of the board's authority, and fortify financial tools and funding available to the board.