

HB 3097 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows municipal corporations or people’s utility districts to apply for water use certificates for hydroelectric purposes within artificial delivery system regardless of who holds the underlying water right, as long as written authorization by that holder is given. Authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to amend its filing procedure rules by December 31, 2024, if needed.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issue

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In-conduit hydroelectric power is generated in existing tunnels, canals, pipelines, and other manmade structures that are fitted with electric generating equipment. As these projects can extract power from water without the need for a large reservoir, they are often considered "small hydro." In-conduit hydroelectric power is not allowed as a municipal beneficial use. Municipalities must undergo an application process with the Oregon Water Resources Department in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a hydroelectric certificate, and the application can only be filed by the original water right holder.

House Bill 3097 would allow municipal corporations or people’s utility districts to apply for water use certificates for hydroelectric power generation upon written authorization by the underlying water right holder.