

**HB 3130 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

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

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**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department to fund a staff position to assist and advise local communities on the development, and assessment of opportunities and limitations of, voluntary agreements among ground water users from the same reservoir. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon's voluntary agreements law (ORS 537.745) authorizes the Water Resources Commission (Commission) to encourage, promote, and recognize voluntary agreements among ground water users from the same ground water reservoir. A voluntary agreement must comply with the intent, purposes, and requirements of the Oregon Ground Water Act, and undergo an approval process by the Commission. One of two approaches available for addressing and controlling ground water declines – the other being area designations and rulemaking – voluntary agreements have not yet been used in Oregon. Community-based water planning collaboratives report that significant uncertainties remain as to their contents, development, implementation.

House Bill 3130 would appropriate General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department to fund a staff position to advise local communities on voluntary ground water agreements.