

## HB 2813 -2 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:** 2/2, 3/2

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to ensure that all communities in Oregon that use surface water as a drinking water source have access to safe and sufficient drinking water. Specifies OHA duties and objectives necessary to achieve this goal. Directs OHA in consultation with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to establish a grant program for water suppliers to protect, restore, or enhance sources of drinking water. Specifies eligible grant uses and requirements, a maximum grant cap of \$3 million, and the application and selection process. Establishes Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund and appropriates \$5 million General Fund moneys for the grant program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Restructures the measure. Directs the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to establish a grant program for water suppliers to protect, restore or enhance drinking water sources in the same manner the Oregon Health Authority would in the original measure. Specifies grant recipient's responsibilities and exempts OWEB from liability for the failure of a grant recipient to fulfill the terms or conditions of any agreement between a landowner, or other person involved in the grant project and the grant recipient. Requires OWEB to submit a report on the grant program by April 1, 2025. Establishes Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund and appropriates \$5 million General Fund moneys for the grant program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### BACKGROUND:

As the primary agency for the implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in Oregon, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is authorized to adopt safety standards necessary to ensure safe drinking water within a water system. These standards include system requirements to stay below maximum contaminant levels, submit to periodic inspections, and meet enforcement requirements as administered by OHA. To support compliance with these standards, OHA provides technical assistance and oversight of grants and loans for public water system operations. Currently, 2.8 million Oregonians from 163 communities source their water from forested watersheds. Pollution sources for these watersheds includes landslides, eroding stream banks, agricultural fertilizers and herbicides, as well as infrastructure builds like boat ramps.

House Bill 2813 would require OHA to ensure that all communities in Oregon have access to safe drinking water and would establish a grant program to support water suppliers in protecting, restoring and enhancing sources of

drinking water.

PRELIMINARY