

HB 3231 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in consultation with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and other relevant state agencies and interested parties to study barriers and opportunities to expanding water reuse or recycled water programs in Oregon by (1) characterizing priority recycled water and beneficial land application project types in regard to water quality, water supply, or habitat and ecosystem needs; (2) identifying regulatory and other impediments to expanding water reuse and potential regulatory changes needed to remove them; (3) identifying environmentally friendly water reuse approaches in other states; (3) developing technical assistance guidance for local jurisdictions and industries seeking permitting and development of recycled water and other beneficial land application programs related to water reuse. Requires DEQ to report findings to the legislature by Sept 15, 2024, and specifies contents of the report. Appropriates General Fund moneys to DEQ and OWRD respectively. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Appropriates \$340,000 General Fund moneys to the Department of Environmental Quality. Appropriates \$100,000 General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

BACKGROUND:

Water reuse refers to water systems designed with the goal of beneficially reusing a recycled water supply. Requirements to align recycled water use with public health considerations are defined by rule (OAR 340-055-0012) and implemented by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in coordination with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), the Health Services Division, and the Department of Human Services. Under these rules, wastewater treatment plants are required to develop comprehensive site and facility specific water reuse management plans. In general, the type of allowable use of recycled water is determined by one of four associated treatment levels. Oregon enacted its first reuse policy in 1990 and since then, water reuse programs have been established throughout the state.

HB 3231 would appropriate \$340,000 and \$100,000 General Fund moneys to DEQ and OWRD respectively and direct DEQ in consultation with OWRD to study barriers and opportunities for expanding water reuse or recycled water programs in Oregon.