

## HB 2929 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/23, 4/3

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Department to seek injunctive relief if a person has engaged, or is about to engage, in activity that is or will be in violation of certain water rights.

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

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

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-6 Replaces the measure. Authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Department to seek temporary or permanent injunctive relief at the Circuit Court for Marion County if a person has engaged in an activity that violates water right permitting, unlawful use or appropriation of groundwater, including well construction and operation, interference with a headgate, or the unauthorized use of wastewater.

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

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

#### **BACKGROUND:**

A water right is the right to use water for a beneficial purpose and specifies the quantity of water, point of diversion, place of use, type of use, season of use, and priority date. Using water despite the absence of an official water right is a violation, however the Oregon Water Resources Department lacks the authority to apply to the courts for a temporary or permanent injunction.

House Bill 2929 would give the Oregon Water Resources Department authority to seek injunctive relief when the department has information that a person has engaged in, or is about to engage in certain water use violations.