

SB 931 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/15, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that, for the purposes of subsurface or alternative sewage disposal permit determinations, a community or area-wide sewerage system is not available unless it is within _____ feet of the property.

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:

-3 Replaces the measure. Requires the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to adopt rules for determining whether a community or area-wide sewerage system will satisfactorily accommodate a proposed sewage discharge. Requires, in rule adoption, consideration of factors including: the legal availability and physical availability of a sewerage system; the scope and magnitude of the proposed repairs to an existing sewage disposal system; the cost of repairs to an existing system compared to the cost of connecting to a sewerage system; statewide planning goals; and environmental and public health concerns. Requires these provisions to become operative on January 1, 2024 and authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EQC to take any needed actions before the operative date. Creates temporary provisions to sunset on January 2, 2025 that allow DEQ to issue a permit to repair or replace a sewage disposal system without regard to the availability of a community or area-wide sewerage system provided that certain conditions are met.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The construction or installation of a subsurface or alternative sewage disposal system requires a permit from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ is required to issue a permit if it finds the proposed construction project conforms to Environmental Quality Commission rules. DEQ is prohibited from issuing a permit if a community or area-wide sewerage system is available that can satisfactorily accommodate the proposed sewage discharge.

Senate Bill 931 would specify that a community or area-wide sewerage system is not available unless it is within _____ feet of the property.