

HB 3195 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Holvey

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

Action Date: 03/07/23

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Exc: 1 - Gamba

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies the definition of "public agency" for purposes of eligibility for financial assistance from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund by removing the requirement that the applying agency must be authorized or required to construct water pollution control facilities. Includes methods or systems for nonpoint source runoff in "treatment works" definition. Modifies state policy supporting public agencies in transitioning from reliance on federal grants to local fee-based self-sufficiency to include support for public agencies with authority to provide treatment works and those with responsibility for implementing a nonpoint source management plan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal input into Clean Water Revolving Fund
- Application timeline for federal funds
- Intent of the bill to increase access to federal funding for certain communities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. In Oregon, the definition of eligible recipients excludes some public agencies, such as domestic water supply districts, if they do not have wastewater system authority. This definition is more restrictive than what is allowable under federal CWSRF program regulations.

House Bill 3195 would broaden the definitions of "public agency" and "treatment works" for purposes of eligibility for financial assistance from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund and broaden the state policy supporting public agencies in transitioning from reliance on federal grants to local fee-based self-sufficiency by including additional public agencies and nonpoint source management activities.