

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****Measure: HB 3125**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Tim Walker  
 Reviewed by: Michelle Deister  
 Date: 03/13/2023

**Measure Description:**

Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Housing and Community Services Department

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

	2023-25 Biennium	2025-27 Biennium
<b>Department of Housing and Community Services</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>		
Personal Services	\$363,709	
Services and Supplies	\$50,320	
Special Payments	\$15,000,000	
<b>Total General Fund</b>	\$15,414,029	\$0
<b>Other Funds*</b>		
Special Payments	\$15,000,000	
<b>Total Other Funds</b>	\$15,000,000	\$0
<b>Total Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>\$30,414,029</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<i>Total Positions</i>	2	0
<i>Total FTE</i>	1.75	0.00

*\*Represents General Fund expended as Other Funds*

**Analysis:** The measure creates the Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund and appropriates \$15 million General Fund for the 2023-25 biennium to the Department of Housing and Community Services to aid low-income residential households. The Fund will assist low-income households with bill payments for drinking water and sewer services. The measure also directs the Department to create and manage the rules necessary for the program.

The Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD) received federal funding for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program through the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, totaling \$13.9 million. As a result, relationships with water utilities have been established by the Department and local service delivery partners. However, federal funding is anticipated to be expended by September of 2023. A limited-duration Compliance Specialist 2 staff position currently assigned to the federal program would be extended for the 2023-25 biennium and transitioned to this state-funded program to provide program monitoring and interface with consumers, utilities, and local service delivery partners. In addition, a limited-duration Program Analyst 3 position will create and manage administrative rules, materials and manuals, and agreements with local service delivery partners. This fiscal impact statement assumes HCSD will align

program eligibility requirements with the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Accounting, information services, and procurement for the program will be accommodated with existing agency resources.

The measure has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.