

House Bill 3002

Sponsored by Representative HELM (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Legislative Policy and Research Office to study water service rates and rate schedules. Directs office to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to utilities no later than September 15, 2024. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Legislative Policy and Research Committee for purposes of funding study.

Sunset January 2, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to water service rates.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Policy and Research Office shall conduct a study to ex-**
4 **amine the water service rates and rate schedules of water utilities and municipal corpo-**
5 **rations and districts that provide water services. The study must include, at a minimum, an**
6 **examination of:**

7 (a) **Recent trends in water service rates and rate schedules;**

8 (b) **Sufficiency of water service rates and rate schedules to cover a water system's op-**
9 **eration, maintenance and upgrade costs;**

10 (c) **Water service rates and rate schedules of water utilities and municipal corporations**
11 **and districts that provide water services in comparison to similarly sized water utilities and**
12 **municipal corporations and districts that provide water services;**

13 (d) **Current and best practices for structuring water service rates and rate schedules;**
14 **and**

15 (e) **Recommendations for state guidance around water service rates and rate schedules.**

16 (2) **In conducting the study, the office shall consult with:**

17 (a) **The Public Utility Commission and any other relevant agency;**

18 (b) **Water utilities and municipal corporations and districts that provide water services;**
19 **and**

20 (c) **The Oregon Association of Water Utilities.**

21 (3) **The Public Utility Commission and all other agencies of state government, as defined**
22 **in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the office in conducting the study and, to the extent**
23 **permitted by laws related to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice necessary for**
24 **the office to complete its study.**

25 (4) **The office shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may in-**
26 **clude recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assem-**
27 **bley related to utilities no later than September 15, 2024.**

28 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.**

29 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
30

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ated to the Legislative Policy and Research Committee, for the biennium beginning July 1,
2 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, which may be expended for carrying
3 out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act. Moneys that are not expended for carrying
4 out section 1 of this 2023 Act by September 15, 2024, shall revert to the General Fund.
5
