

# Senate Bill 691

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR (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 Water Resources Department to study legal implications of recent Oregon Supreme Court case for water rights of certain hydroelectric projects. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to hydroelectric projects; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Department shall study the legal implications of**  
5 **WaterWatch of Oregon v. Water Resources Department, 369 Or. 71 (2021), for the water**  
6 **rights of hydroelectric projects that are unable to generate electricity for a period of five**  
7 **years or more due to circumstances outside a project owner's control, including maintenance**  
8 **issues, safety issues or state or federal regulatory requirements.**

9 (2) The department shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the  
10 interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September  
11 15, 2024.

12 (3) The report must make recommendations for addressing potential impacts of the legal  
13 implications on the long-term viability of the hydroelectric projects.

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 Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.**

15 **SECTION 3. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023**  
16 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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**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.