

SB 1567 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/13, 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Water Resources Department (department) to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington to implement and guide bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin pursuant to the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan, with advice from a Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee. The measure establishes the intent of the Legislative Assembly in implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan. The measure specifies actions the department must take in implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan. Finally, the measure requires the department to report to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to water by June 30, 2026 and to report, in coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington, to the Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee at specified times.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan is a 30-year plan to improve streamflows and water supplies in the Walla Walla watershed. The plan uses a water resource management approach and engages stakeholders in both Washington and Oregon to develop a long-term plan for water use in the basin. The Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee provides policy and project development advice on implementation of the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan. WWBAC includes participation from Washington State, Oregon State, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and local governments.

Senate Bill 1567 directs the Water Resources Department to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington to implement and guide bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin pursuant to the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan, with advice from a Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee.