

SB 1567 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Hansell

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

Action Date: 02/15/24

Action: Do pass and subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gorsek, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Thatcher, Woods

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, LPRO Analyst

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:

- Similar legislation enacted in the State of Washington in 2023
- Purpose of the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan
- Walla Walla Basin includes communities in Oregon, Washington, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Uses of the Walla Walla Basin aquifer

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan is a 30-year plan to improve stream flows 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 (WWBAC) 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 the Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee.