

HB 3573 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2.3 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Water Resources Department for specified expenditures related to water resources data collection and monitoring.

Detailed Summary

Appropriates a total of \$2.3 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Water Resources Department to be split among the following expenditures:

- \$800,000 for ground water investigations
- \$450,000 for ground water monitoring
- \$300,000 for gaging stations
- \$300,000 for water use management cost share funds
- \$100,000 for evapotranspiration monitoring and studies
- \$100,000 for AgriMet
- \$250,000 for contract funding for facilitation and public engagement in water-related monitoring, studies, investigations, and efforts related to the development of basin wide ground water budgets in Oregon.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), Oregon currently has over 250,000 known wells, and several thousand new wells are built each year. To monitor ground water levels, OWRD has a network of approximately 1,100 observation wells that provide information on current ground water availability and long-term trends. However, more information is needed in many basins to better understand how ground water uses impact streams, aquifers, and other water sources. In 2021 the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2018 which direct OWRD to enter a cost-matching agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop and publish groundwater budgets for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon.