

## HB 3655 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

---

**Prepared By:** Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18

---

#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with public and private stakeholders, to develop a program for examination and certification of operators of lagoon wastewater treatment systems.

#### Detailed summary:

Requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with public and private stakeholders, to develop a program for examination and certification of operators of lagoon wastewater treatment systems. Requires the examination to be limited to topics relevant to the operation of a lagoon wastewater treatment system. Allows DEQ to contract with a third party to develop the examination. Permits a person who has one year of experience in the performance of the duties of a sewage treatment works operator, or that meets other education and experience requirements established by the department, to be eligible for certification as a lagoon wastewater treatment system operator after receiving a passing score on the examination. Establishes requirements for DEQ to follow relating to the results on the examination and review of the examination and examination results.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Lagoon wastewater treatment systems are designed to hold wastewater in a series of pond-like bodies of water. Various methods of treatment are used on the wastewater. The lagoons are often used by small, rural, or tribal communities. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality administers a wastewater operator certification program to ensure the systems are managed in a way that protects public health and the environment.