

HB 2169 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/10, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Water Resources Department to jointly establish an interagency water reuse development team to encourage and expand water reuse in Oregon.

Detailed Summary

Declares the intent of the Legislative Assembly to encourage and expand water reuse in Oregon and declares it state policy for executive agencies to work together to encourage and expand opportunities for water reuse by reducing barriers and funding constraints and improving water reuse related policies and internal operations. Requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Water Resources Department to jointly establish an interagency water reuse development team and directs other agencies to join as requested.

Requires the team to:

- Provide training and education to state agency staff on the benefits and drivers of water reuse projects and Oregon’s policy to encourage and expand opportunities for water reuse;
- Identify internal barriers and information needs within agencies and identify changes needed to overcome these barriers;
- Identify conflicts between agencies that must be resolved to expand water reuse in Oregon and work toward their resolution;
- Ensure information and agency contacts regarding water reuse are current and accessible and that for, each involved agency, responses to water reuse related information requests from individuals or other government agencies are consistent and timely.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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:

-4 The amendment clarifies agency roles in regard to the water reuse team (team), modifies, clarifies, and adds certain team responsibilities, and adds a reporting requirement for the Department of Environmental Quality. The measure also adds an emergency clause and changes the effective date to July 1, 2025.

Detailed Summary

- **Modifies agency roles** by establishing the Department of Environmental Quality as the lead agency to establish a water reuse team (team) that includes the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

HB 2169 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

- Specifies that all actions regarding water reuse must be done in a manner that **protects public health and the environment**.
- Authorizes DEQ to enter into interagency agreements to support the participation of other agencies in the team.
- Specifies that the water reuse team must carry out assigned tasks **in consultation with** municipal wastewater utilities, industry stakeholders, and other interested parties.
- **Broadens the recipients of the team's training requirement** to include potential reuse project applicants and the public.
- Specifies that the team must not only identify internal barriers, information gaps, and interagency conflicts to encourage and support the expansion of water reuse in Oregon, but also **address** them;
- Requires the team to **evaluate successful environmentally protective approaches** used by other states' water reuse programs that could be implemented in Oregon.
- Clarifies language related to identifying and reducing barriers to water reuse in Oregon and adds a requirement for the team to work towards improving interagency collaboration;
- Specifies that information and agency contacts regarding water reuse are current and accessible **to the public**.
- **Adds the following requirements** for the team: (1) develop technical assistance guidance, or other resources for local governments, industries, and nongovernmental organizations seeking water reuse program development and associated permitting and (2) establish goals and performance metrics on water reuse development in Oregon;
- **Adds a reporting requirement** for DEQ regarding the progress made toward achieving the established water reuse goals.
- Sunsets the reporting requirement on January 2, 2032.
- Declares an emergency and changes the effective day to July 1, 2025.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Water reuse refers to water systems designed with the goal of beneficially reusing a recycled water supply. Requirements to align recycled water use with public health considerations are defined by rule ([OAR 340-055-0012](#)) and implemented by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in coordination with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), and the Department of Human Services Health Service Division. Under these rules, wastewater treatment plants are required to develop comprehensive site and facility specific water reuse management plans. In general, the type of allowable use of recycled water is determined by one of four associated treatment levels. Oregon enacted its first reuse policy in 1990 and since then, water reuse programs have been established throughout the state.