

SB 1047 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Business Development Department to study access to resources for development in Curry County and submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The measure requires Curry County to expedite any permit related to the operation or use of land for any development on a tract of land that meets certain criteria North of Port Orford. The Act would authorize Curry County to waive any fees and take any reasonable action or pay any state, federal or other local fee to expedite the review of applications. In addition, the Act would appropriate \$55,000 to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to disburse to Curry County to take actions associated with the Act. The measure allows water supply wells to be sited on the tract of land and establishes this water use as an exempt category, with a total withdrawal cap of 600 gallons per minute, subject to monitoring and reporting.

Detailed Summary

Applies Act to "tract of land": larger than 125 acres, sited north of Port Orford city limits, west of U.S. Highway 101, and south of the Elk River. Requires Curry County to expedite any applications for land use planning, building permits, business licensing, public health, restaurant licensing, or any other permit related to the operation or use of land for any development on the tract of land. Authorizes Curry County to waive any required application fees and take any reasonable actions or pay any state, federal or other local fee to expedite application review. Appropriate \$55,000 to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services from the General Fund to disburse to Curry County to take actions associated with Act.

Allows water supply wells to be sited on the tract of land and requires that each well have its location and date of first operation reported to the Water Resources Department (OWRD); be sited more than one-half mile south of the Elk River; and must be for beneficial use on the tract of land. Authorizes up to 100 acre-feet of water to be stored to be used for irrigation purposes, provided that the water consists only of: water withdrawn from wells sited under Act or treated effluent from Port Orford. Stipulates the use of water from wells or storage is treated as an additional exempt use of water provided that the rate of water use from all wells is limited to no more than 600 gallons per minute and monitored and reported to OWRD on a regular basis as requested. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Curry County is located at the southwest corner of the State of Oregon, bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the State of California to the south, Coos County to the north and Josephine County to the east. As of the 2020 census, the population was 23,446. Curry County consists of three incorporated cities: Port Orford, Gold Beach and Brookings and several unincorporated communities, including; Langlois, Carpenterville, Agness, Wedderburn and Harbor. The Curry County Board of Commissioners is the governing body for all areas of the county outside the three incorporated cities.