

HB 3346 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to study issues regarding siting of energy facilities in designated critical groundwater areas and to report its findings to an appropriate interim committee of the legislature by September 15, 2026.

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:

-1 The amendment replaces the measure and requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development, in consultation with the Department of Revenue, Oregon Department of Energy, and the Oregon Water Resources Department to submit a study on issues regarding small-scale renewable energy facilities sited in areas classified as critical groundwater areas east of the Cascade Mountains to a land use related interim committee of the Legislature by November 30, 2026.

Detailed Summary

Requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development, in consultation with the Department of Revenue, Oregon Department of Energy, and the Oregon Water Resources Department to submit a study on issues regarding small-scale renewable energy facilities sited in areas classified as critical groundwater areas east of the Cascade Mountains to a land use related interim committee of the Legislature by November 30, 2026.

Requires the study to include the following components:

- Potential changes to legislation, statewide land use planning goals, Land Conservation and Development Commission rules, local government comprehensive plans, or land use regulations to facilitate facility approval by a conditional use process rather than as a goal exception.
- Potential legislative changes to reduce property tax burdens for facilities, including reductions to special assessment disqualification and additional tax liabilities for properties converted from farm use.
- Feasibility of electric cooperatives participating in facility development and investment.
- Land use siting issues specific to different energy facility types and generation capacities.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Critical groundwater area (CGA) is a statutory designation that allows the Water Resources Commission, in rule, to not only limit the issuance of new groundwater rights, but also impose a range of restrictions on existing groundwater rights. Oregon currently has seven CGAs.