

HB 2803 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure increases certain fees charged by the Oregon Department of Water Resources for water right transactions and dam safety.

Detailed Summary

Increases fees charged by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for the following purposes:

- Examining water right permit applications
- Permits to appropriate or store water
- Filing and recording the assignment or partial assignment of a water right application, permit or license
- Copying records in the department, or having documents certified, blueprinted, or computer-generated
- Examining permanent and temporary water transfer applications, or obtaining a copy of the proposed final order and a final order for a water right application
- Modifying a certificate of registration
- Submitting a water right protest, requesting standing in a contested case hearing or participating in a requested case hearing
- Filing an application for extension of the time period during which a water right has to be perfected
- Limited licenses to use or store surface and groundwater
- Filing, examining and certifying district maps
- Examining water storage applications, or applications for an allocation of conserved water
- Submitting a notice of intent to continue operation of a state project or use water for hydroelectric purposes
- Submitting a water management and conservation plan
- Examining new and renewal applications for in-stream water right leases
- Submitting a claim of beneficial use under a permit or transfer
- Submitting a request for a basin plan exemption
- Annual fees charged to dam owners based upon the dam's hazard rating
- Certain registration statements

Declares an emergency, effective on passage. Applies retroactively, if effective after July 1, 2025, for fees charged for services provided on or after 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:

-3 The amendment modifies water right transaction fees to a 50 percent increase while retaining proposed fee increases related to dam safety. It adds an additional fee tier for secondary water storage for hydroelectric projects and makes a technical fix specifying the applicability of certain beneficial use claim fees.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the legislature restructured many of the Oregon Department of Water Resources' water right fees. OWRD has since brought forward legislation to modify the water right transaction fee schedule every four years. Staff in both the Dam Safety and Water Right Transaction Division are partially supported by fees. The current fee schedule provides \$330k to support 0.95 FTE in the Dam Safety program and \$2.35 million to fund 14.93 FTE across the Water Right Services Division, the Groundwater Section, and Water Right Data Technicians.