



Legislative Fiscal Office
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Bill Title: Relating to water.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Business Development Department, Water Resources Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure modifies the Water Resources Department's (WRD) feasibility study grant program by expanding eligible project types and applicants, lowering the cost match requirement to 25%, and removing the \$500,000 per-project cap. The measure renames the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Investment Fund as the Water Project Feasibility Fund, which remains continuously appropriated to WRD for grants and direct services. Eligible study components are expanded to include dam safety and environmental justice. The measure broadens allowable uses of the Water Supply Development Account to include monitoring equipment and exempts legislatively named projects from the standard application and public benefit scoring process if the project is funded by a General Fund appropriation or a lottery bond transfer. WRD must still enter into a grant or loan agreement before disbursing funds. The measure shortens the public comment period for funding applications from 60 to 30 days and requires WRD to report on its funding programs every eight years.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Water Resources Department. Existing staff will update internal processes, technical materials, and administrative rules to reflect changes to the feasibility study grant program and related accounts. Staff will also support a new eight-year reporting requirement by evaluating programs and identifying recommendations for improvement. Although expanding project eligibility and reducing the cost match may increase application volume, WRD expects to implement the changes within existing resources.

Other entities

The measure is anticipated to have no or minimal fiscal impact on the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Business Development Department.

Relevant Dates

The Water Resources Department must submit the first required report no later than eight years after the measure's effective date.

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.