



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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Reviewed by: April McDonald
Date: May 6, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to water.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Water Resources Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact

The measure is estimated to have a minimal impact on the Water Resources Department – see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure updates administrative processes for water rights permitting, streamlining timelines, and clarifying application review procedures. The measure allows the Water Resources Department (WRD) to accept permit payments via credit or debit card and pass along transaction processing fees. The measure also clarifies that WRD may retain part of the application fee when an application is returned or withdrawn, rather than refunding the full amount. The measure establishes procedures for contested case proceedings, including protest requirements and default hearing schedules. The measure authorizes WRD to publish notice of proposed final orders in the Department’s weekly public notice.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is estimated to have a minimal impact on the Water Resources Department related to application processing and fee administration.

WRD does not anticipate revenue from passing credit card or debit card processing fees to applicants at this time, resulting in a de minimis impact. The potential revenue associated with retained fees from returned or withdrawn applications is indeterminate, as the new staged payment process is not yet defined and may result in no fee collection for applications in critical or restricted groundwater areas. Application review and return procedures outlined in the measure are expected to be absorbed within existing staffing and resources.

Relevant Dates

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