

HB 3121 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/10/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Boice, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Exc: 1 - Hartman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/12, 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2.5 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and directs DAS to distribute the moneys to the Oregon Association of Water Utilities in order to

- provide technical assistance,
- develop a water utility training center, and
- hire three staff to support small and very small community water systems in Oregon.

Detailed summary

Allocates \$2.5 million in General Fund money to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and requires DAS to distribute the funds to the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) and carry out the following:

- **Provide technical assistance** to small and very small community water systems, either directly or through a third-party provider, to address their specific needs and vulnerabilities.
- Develop or acquire equipment for a **water utility training center** that offers technical, financial, and managerial support tailored to small and very small community water systems.
- **Employ three staff members** who will provide support and resources to address the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems in Oregon.

Repeals on January 2, 2027, the use of funds by OAWU for carrying out provisions. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of helping small and very small water systems increase efficiency through consolidation
- Efforts by Oregon Association of Water Utilities to encourage consolidation of small and very small water systems

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes the requirement for the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to enter into a contract with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) and instead requires DAS to distribute the allocated moneys to OAWU to implement the provisions.

BACKGROUND:

- The federal Safe Drinking Water Act defines small public water systems as public water systems that serve 10,000 or fewer people.

HB 3121 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

- Very small water systems are defined by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) ([OAR 333-061-0020\(91\)](#)) as serving between four and 14 service connections. These systems are exempt from certain rule requirements and make up 24 percent of Oregon’s public water systems.