

HB 3116 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 04/07/25

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

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/19, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Water Resources Department for the implementation of the place-based water planning program, water basin assessments, the Water Resources Department Water Supply Fund, and for grants that support the advancements of specific state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans.

Detailed Summary

- Appropriates \$500,000 General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 for the following purposes:
 - Implement and report on recommendations from the evaluation of the place-based water planning program and recommendations of the regional water planning and management group.
 - Produce, or contract for the production of, a prototype for a water basin assessment that is consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and can form the technical basis for water planning.
 - Develop and document recommendations regarding a proposed schedule and sequence for completion of basin assessments in basins across the state; best practices and lessons learned related to water planning and basin assessments; and opportunities to reduce the cost of, or expedite completion of, water basin assessments, including by contracting for development of water basin assessments.
- Appropriates \$3.35 million General Fund moneys to OWRD for deposit in the Water Resources Department Water Supply Fund.
- Increases OWRD's General Fund expenditure limitation made through Enrolled Senate Bill 5543 (2025) for specified expenditures by \$3.35 million for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 for grant distribution to implement actions advancing state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans that are supported by an associated planning group:
 - \$1.1 million to the High Desert Partnership
 - \$500,000 to Union County
 - \$1.1 million to the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Consistency of the measure with recent rulemaking efforts of the Oregon Water Resources Department
- Scalability of implementation
- Associated fiscal impacts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

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

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In 2015, the Oregon legislature authorized the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to pilot a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning by making grants and providing technical assistance to communities to engage in place-based planning. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to specific water resource needs and challenges of the location in which planning efforts take place. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify knowledge gaps; examine current and future water needs for people, places, and nature; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to addressing water needs; and develop a place-based integrated water resources plan (place-based IWRP). In 2019, [House Bill 2084](#) extended the sunset date of place-based IWRP program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. In 2023, the Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 2010](#) which established the Place-Based Water Planning Fund.