

HB 2165 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 04/09/25

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

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: 3/31, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$830,415 from the General Fund to the Oregon Water Resources Department for costs related to well construction and compliance. The measure declares an emergency and becomes effective July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In areas not connected to a public water system, people often rely on private wells and septic systems for their drinking water and wastewater needs. According to the Oregon Health Authority, estimates for Oregonians reliant on domestic wells range between 17 to 23 percent of the state's population. The Water Resources Commission is responsible for adopting and enforcing general rules and standards relating to the construction and maintenance of wells. A start card submitted to the Oregon Water Resources Department serves as notice of intent to construct a well. Supply wells are either drilled by professionally trained and licensed well constructors, or, after obtaining a permit, by persons without such a license.