

## Enrolled House Bill 2169

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Presession filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water for Representatives Ken Helm, Mark Owens)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to water reuse; and declaring an emergency.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that it is the policy of this state to encourage water reuse and to expand opportunities for water reuse in this state in a manner that protects public health and the environment.

(2) The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that it is the policy of this state that agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, work together to encourage and expand opportunities for water reuse by overcoming institutional and regulatory barriers and funding constraints and improving policies and internal operations related to water reuse.

**SECTION 2.** (1) The Department of Environmental Quality shall establish and lead an interagency water reuse team. The Water Resources Department, the Oregon Health Authority, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall participate in the water reuse team. Other agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, shall participate in the water reuse team as requested by the Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality may enter into interagency agreements to support the participation of other agencies of state government in the water reuse team.

(2) The Department of Environmental Quality, with support from the water reuse team where appropriate, and in consultation with municipal wastewater utilities, industry stakeholders and other interested parties, shall:

(a) Provide training and education to state agency staff, potential reuse project applicants and the public on the benefits and drivers of water reuse projects and the state policy to encourage and expand opportunities for water reuse in a manner that protects public health and the environment;

(b) Identify and work toward resolution of, with respect to the development of water reuse projects, internal barriers within agencies, information needs within agencies and conflicts between agencies, to better enable state agencies to encourage and support expanded water reuse in this state;

(c) Evaluate environmentally protective approaches that have been successfully employed by other state water reuse programs and that may be appropriate for water reuse in this state;

(d) Identify and propose regulatory changes needed to overcome barriers to water reuse in a manner that protects public health and the environment, including, but not limited to, changes to state agency policies and internal guidance, administrative rules and state statutes;

(e) Work to improve interagency collaboration and resolve conflicts, consistent with each agency's designated role and responsibilities, to encourage water reuse projects in a manner that protects public health and the environment;

(f) Ensure that information and agency contacts regarding water reuse are current and accessible to the public;

(g) Promote consistent and timely responsiveness to requests for information from the public or other government agencies regarding water reuse;

(h) Develop technical assistance guidance, or other resources, for local governments, industries and nongovernmental organizations seeking permitting and the development of water reuse programs; and

(i) Establish goals and performance metrics on water reuse development in this state.

**SECTION 3.** No later than December 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Department of Environmental Quality, in coordination with the interagency water reuse team established under section 2 of this 2025 Act, shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment. The report must describe the progress made toward achieving the water reuse development goals established under section 2 (2)(i) of this 2025 Act.

**SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2032.

**SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation made to the Department of Environmental Quality by section 1 (2), chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Oregon Laws 2025 (Enrolled Senate Bill 5520), for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for water quality, is increased by \$295,126 to carry out sections 1 to 3 of this 2025 Act.

**SECTION 6.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect July 1, 2025.

Passed by House June 13, 2025

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 19, 2025

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2025

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State