

A-Engrossed House Bill 3121

Ordered by the House March 11
Including House Amendments dated March 11

Sponsored by Representatives OWENS, HELM; Representatives BOICE, GAMBA, GOMBERG, HARTMAN, MCINTIRE, RESCHKE, WRIGHT, Senators PHAM K, WEBER (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act would result in support for small and very small water systems. (Flesch Readability Score: 76.5).

Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to [*enter into a contract with*] **distribute moneys to** the Oregon Association of Water Utilities to provide technical assistance, or enter into a contract with a third party to provide technical assistance, to address the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems, construct and equip a water utility training center and employ three staff to provide related support and resources.

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the department to carry out the [*contract*] **Act**. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to community water systems; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
5 **ated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July**
6 **1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,500,000, for purposes of implementing**
7 **section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

8 **SECTION 2. The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall distribute moneys**
9 **to the Oregon Association of Water Utilities to:**

10 (1) **Provide technical assistance, or enter into a contract with a third party to provide**
11 **technical assistance, to address the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small com-**
12 **munity water systems as identified in the report generated under section 24, chapter 606,**
13 **Oregon Laws 2023.**

14 (2) **Construct and procure equipment for a water utility training center to provide techni-**
15 **cal, financial and managerial support and resources to individuals, including support and**
16 **resources related to:**

17 (a) **Water supply reliability.**

18 (b) **Source and treated water quality.**

19 (c) **Utility board and operations management.**

20 (d) **Workforce development.**

21 (e) **Infrastructure.**

22 (f) **Emergency preparedness and response.**

23 (g) **Information technology, management and cyber security.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 **(h) Funding, financial stability and water rates.**
2 **(i) Regulations and safe drinking water standards.**
3 **(j) Applying for and managing funds associated with state and federal funding programs.**
4 **(k) Assessing and supporting opportunities for emergency interties, system consolidation**
5 **and regionalization.**
6 **(3) Employ three staff to provide support and resources to address the needs and vul-**
7 **nerabilities of small and very small community water systems in this state.**
8 **SECTION 3.** **Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**
9 **SECTION 4.** **This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
10 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
11 **on its passage.**

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