

# A-Engrossed House Bill 3527

Ordered by the House March 27  
Including House Amendments dated March 27

Sponsored by Representatives HARTMAN, OWENS, HELM; Representatives GAMBA, MANNIX, WALTERS, Senator MANNING JR

## 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: Creates a fund to help households with low incomes with water, stormwater and sewer bill payments. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.6).**

*[Digest: Creates a fund to help low-income households with water and sewer bill payments. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.4).]*

Establishes the Public Drinking Water, **Stormwater** and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund. Directs the Housing and Community Services Department to provide grants from moneys in the fund to qualified organizations to distribute water, **stormwater** and sewer bill payment assistance to low-income residential households.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to water utility ratepayer assistance; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Public Drinking Water, Stormwater and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance**  
5 **Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The**  
6 **Public Drinking Water, Stormwater and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund shall consist of**  
7 **all moneys placed in the fund as provided by law and any gifts, grants, donations,**  
8 **endowments or bequests from any public or private source.**

9 **(2) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Housing and Community**  
10 **Services Department for the purposes set forth in subsection (3) of this section.**

11 **(3) The department shall provide grants from moneys deposited in the fund to qualified**  
12 **organizations to distribute water, stormwater and sewer bill payment assistance to low-**  
13 **income residential households.**

14 **(4) Qualified organizations for receiving grants under this section shall include, but need**  
15 **not be limited to:**

16 **(a) Nonprofit community-based organizations, including but not limited to housing au-**  
17 **thorities and community action agencies; and**

18 **(b) Public utilities providing domestic water, stormwater or sewer service.**

19 **(5) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration and implementa-**  
20 **tion of subsections (3) and (4) of this section. In adopting rules, the department shall con-**  
21 **sider other utility bill payment or crisis assistance and low-income assistance programs**  
22 **administered by the department, including but not limited to the Low Income Home Energy**  
23 **Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.).**

**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        **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
2        ated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July  
3        1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$11,000,000, for deposit in the Public Drinking  
4        Water, Stormwater and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund established under section 1 of this  
5        2025 Act.

6        **SECTION 3.** This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025  
7        regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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