

# Senate Bill 998

Sponsored by Senator BONHAM

## 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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act makes the Governor choose the head of DEQ and makes the Senate approve the choice. (Flesch Readability Score: 85.0).

Removes authority to appoint the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality from the Environmental Quality Commission and provides appointment authority to the Governor. Makes appointment subject to Senate confirmation.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality; creating new provisions; and  
3 amending ORS 468.040.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 468.040 is amended to read:

6 468.040. (1) [*The Environmental Quality Commission shall appoint a director who shall hold office*  
7 *at the pleasure of the commission.*] **The Governor shall appoint the Director of the Department**  
8 **of Environmental Quality, who holds the office at the pleasure of the Governor.** The salary  
9 of the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall be fixed by the [*commission*]  
10 **Governor** unless otherwise provided by law.

11 (2) **The appointment of the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality is**  
12 **subject to confirmation by the Senate as provided by ORS 171.562 and 171.565.**

13 **SECTION 2.** (1) **Notwithstanding the amendments to ORS 468.040 by section 1 of this 2025**  
14 **Act, the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality on the effective date of this**  
15 **2025 Act may continue to serve as the director until the question of confirmation of the Di-**  
16 **rector of the Department of Environmental Quality is acted upon by the Senate pursuant to**  
17 **ORS 171.562 and 171.565.**

18 (2) **The Governor shall expeditiously submit the name of an individual to be appointed or**  
19 **reappointed as the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality so that the Senate**  
20 **may take up the question of confirmation at the regular session next following the effective**  
21 **date of this 2025 Act or the time at which the Senate convenes to carry out its duties under**  
22 **section 4, Article III of the Oregon Constitution, next following the effective date of this 2025**  
23 **Act, whichever is earlier.**

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**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.