

HB 2988-5
(LC 2436)
4/3/25 (RLM/AG/ps)

Requested by Representative HELM

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 2988**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 4 through 28.

2 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 16 and insert:

3 **“SECTION 1. (1) In consultation with the Department of Environ-**
4 **mental Quality, the Oregon Health Authority, the State Department**
5 **of Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies and interested parties,**
6 **the Water Resources Department shall identify opportunities to im-**
7 **prove processes, and shall develop technical assistance resources, in**
8 **order to encourage the expansion of beneficial aquifer recharge and**
9 **aquifer storage and recovery in Oregon in a manner that protects**
10 **public health, ground water quality and ecosystems.**

11 **“(2) To carry out the purposes described in subsection (1) of this**
12 **section, the department shall:**

13 **“(a) Identify and describe the types of projects related to aquifer**
14 **recharge and aquifer storage and recovery that can support water**
15 **quality, water supply or use and habitat or ecosystem needs in this**
16 **state or have the potential to improve aquifer levels or aquifer quality**
17 **over current baseline conditions.**

18 **“(b) Identify regulatory and other improvements to encourage the**
19 **expansion of aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery and**
20 **issuing timely decisions.**

21 **“(c) Identify opportunities to improve data, information and mod-**

1 eling requirements for limited license approvals related to aquifer re-
2 charge and aquifer storage and recovery testing.

3 “(d) Identify any environmentally protective approaches that other
4 states with robust aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery
5 programs have successfully employed that could be established in
6 Oregon.

7 “(e) Identify any regulatory changes that are needed in order to
8 carry out the purposes described in subsection (1) of this section, in-
9 cluding any changes to internal guidance, rules or laws.

10 “(f) Develop a proposed schedule for enacting any regulatory
11 changes identified pursuant to paragraph (e) of this subsection and
12 enact the changes, to the extent the changes are under the jurisdiction
13 of the department.

14 “(g) Develop guidance related to technical assistance and other re-
15 sources that can support permitting and the development of aquifer
16 recharge and aquifer storage and recovery programs.

17 **“SECTION 2. (1) On or before January 1, 2027, the Water Resources**
18 **Department shall submit a report, in the manner provided by ORS**
19 **192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related**
20 **to water on how aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery in**
21 **Oregon may be promoted in a manner that protects public health,**
22 **ground water quality and ecosystems.**

23 “(2) The report must identify the following, at minimum:

24 “(a) Recommended changes that state agencies can make to inter-
25 nal policies, guidance and processes.

26 “(b) Recommended changes achieved by amending existing rules or
27 adopting new rules.

28 “(c) Recommended changes achieved by amending existing law or
29 enacting new laws.

30 “(d) Programmatic needs that support access to and acceleration

1 of aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery.

2 “(e) Available and needed technical assistance resources and in-
3 centives to support the evaluation and pursuit of aquifer recharge and
4 aquifer storage and recovery.

5 “(f) Resources needed by state agencies to effectively implement
6 aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery.

7 “(g) Funding mechanisms that may support staffing needed for
8 projects related to aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery.

9 “(h) Federal and state funding programs that can support the
10 projects.”.

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