

HB 4004-14
(LC 242)
2/9/26 (ASD/gpb/ps)

Requested by HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND USE, NATURAL RESOURCES,
AND WATER (at the request of Representatives Ken Helm, Mark Owens)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 4004**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after “308A.707” insert “, 536.032 and
2 537.623”.

3 On page 2, after line 29, insert:

4 **“SECTION 4.** ORS 536.032 is amended to read:

5 “536.032. Subject to confirmation by the Senate in the manner provided
6 in section 4, Article III, Oregon Constitution, the Governor shall appoint a
7 Water Resources Director. The director shall be an individual qualified by
8 training and experience and shall serve for a term of four years at the
9 pleasure of the Governor. The director [*or a principal assistant*] must [*be*]
10 **ensure that** a registered engineer experienced in water-related engineering
11 **is employed by the Water Resources Department to carry out the**
12 **department’s functions under ORS 540.443 to 540.491.**

13 **“SECTION 5.** ORS 537.623 is amended to read:

14 “537.623. (1) Notwithstanding ORS chapter 537, 540 or 541, a proposed
15 final order issued by the Water Resources Department under ORS chapter
16 537, 540 or 541 for an application requesting that the department approve a
17 new water right or a change to an existing water right or permit, registra-
18 tion or license, shall become, without further department action, a final or-
19 der as a matter of law 33 days after the close of the time period for
20 submitting a protest if:

21 “(a) The department includes a provision in the proposed final order ex-

1 plaining that the proposed final order will become a final order under this
2 section; and

3 “(b) A protest is not **timely** received by the department [*within the 33*
4 *days*].

5 “(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the department may
6 withdraw a proposed final order for reconsideration and issuance of a su-
7 perseding proposed final order not more than 33 days after the close of the
8 time period for submitting a protest.

9 **“SECTION 6. (1) The Water Resources Department shall promote**
10 **and facilitate enrollment in the federal Conservation Reserve En-**
11 **hancement Program (132 Stat. 4534, 16 U.S.C. 3831a) for water users in**
12 **this state who voluntarily cancel ground water rights in areas where**
13 **the department is not allowing new rights to use ground water for ir-**
14 **rigation.**

15 **“(2) To carry out the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the**
16 **department may enter into grant agreements and contracts and issue**
17 **direct payments to program enrollees.”.**

18 In line 30, delete “4” and insert “7”.
19 _____