

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Beyer, Burley, Cannon, Jenson, Macpherson, Smith G., Dingfelder
<b>Nays:</b>	-
<b>Exc.:</b>	-
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Cat McGinnis, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/16, 3/5

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to implement and establish fees for underground injection control (UIC) program portion of federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Directs that fees be deposited in Subsurface Injection Fluids Account created under the Act, and that fees be continuously appropriated to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to fund UIC program administration. Sets fees for the subsurface injection of fluids after passage of the Act and until fees are established by rule. Authorizes EQC to exempt from Water Pollution Control Facility Permit requirements those UICs authorized under the UIC program. Directs that all penalties DEQ recovers for violations of UIC rules adopted by the EQC be deposited into the Watershed Improvement Grant Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Changes in service levels if UIC program primacy returned to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Service levels and funding of other state UIC programs in EPA Region 10
- Impact on single-family homes, duplexes and triplexes with roof drain UICs—standard for “*de minimus* discharges”
- Basis for DEQ determination that UIC poses an environmental risk

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

- Directs that all penalties DEQ recovers for violations of UIC rules adopted by the EQC be deposited into the Watershed Improvement Grant Fund
- Inserts fee amounts and clarifies that fees apply to common roof drains only when they pose environmental risk to groundwater

**BACKGROUND:** The federal government began the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program in 1974 as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act. DEQ assumed primary enforcement responsibility for the UIC program in Oregon in 1984. The program’s goal is to protect underground freshwater supplies from contamination due to underground injection control systems. The most common underground injection control systems in Oregon are stormwater drywells. DEQ authorizes some UICs by permit and others by rule. Currently, 45,500 UICs are registered in Oregon. Annually, on average, DEQ registers 1,550 new UIC systems and approves 1,250 UICs as meeting Oregon rules. The UIC program is not currently funded by fees. The only fees available for UIC work are fees for Water Pollution Control Facility permits, which are issued to qualifying owners of multiple UICs. The EPA provides funding for slightly less than one full-time staff person to administer the UIC program in Oregon.