

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Burley
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Nelson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 17 – 4 – 0

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields
– Nays: Garrard, Hanna, Morgan
– Exc:

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Carter, Devlin, Gordly, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Westlund, Whitsett, Winters
– Nays: Verger
– Exc:

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 4/27/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Environmental Quality Commission 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. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Board support by those that would pay the fee for the bill
- More revenue would be collected than will be expended in the first biennium resulting in a significant ending balance. This will allow the Department to go at least three biennia before fees will be adjusted again.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes section that would have diverted penalty monies to a grant program operated by the Oregon watershed Enhancement Board. The fines will instead go the General Fund as required under current law.

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 EPA provides funding only sufficient for slightly less than one full-time staff person to administer the UIC program in Oregon. All state support for the program had been eliminated in previous biennia.