

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Burley, Cannon, Jenson, Macpherson, Smith G., Dingfelder
Nays:	-
Exc.:	-
Prepared By:	Cat McGinnis, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/14, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to impose fee on water suppliers for the costs of conducting sanitary surveys.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- DHS's primacy for implementing drinking water act
- Impact to Oregon if sanitary surveys are not conducted
- Amount of fee for water systems of varying size

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2000-2001, Oregon's safe drinking water programs were audited by the Oregon Secretary of State and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—Region 10, and were subject to a national assessment of state drinking water resource needs. DHS presented the audit, which outlined deficiencies in Oregon's Drinking Water Program, to the 2001 Legislative Assembly with a request for funding to implement audit recommendations. The Legislative Assembly directed DHS to meet with stakeholders to develop a plan to address the funding shortfall. The 2003 Legislative Assembly enacted HB 2255A, which created the Task Force on Drinking Water Program Workload and Funding. The taskforce was directed to review funding and workload issues relative to Oregon's administration of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and report recommendations to the 73rd Legislative Assembly. The taskforce recommended that DHS seek full cost recovery for its services before imposing a general fee. With support from the taskforce, DHS increased fees by rule to achieve full cost recovery for some services. The taskforce also identified sanitary surveys as a program that provides substantial benefit to water suppliers but DHS currently receives no compensation for the surveys.