

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	3 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Bates, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Atkinson, Beyer
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/15

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department primacy for implementing federal Safe Drinking Water Act
- Impact to Oregon if sanitary surveys are not conducted
- Involvement and support of water suppliers
- 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. The Department of Human Services 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 the department to meet with stakeholders to develop a plan to address the funding shortfall. The 2003 Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2255-A, which created the Task Force on Drinking Water Program Workload and Funding. The task force 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 task force recommended that the department seek full cost recovery for its services before imposing a general fee. With support from the task force, the department increased fees by rule to achieve full cost recovery for some services. The task force also identified sanitary surveys as a program that provides substantial benefit to water suppliers, but the department currently receives no compensation for the surveys.

House Bill 2187 implements one of the task force recommendations, to charge fees on water suppliers for the cost of conducting sanitary surveys.

5/17/2007 9:45:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.