

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	4 - 3 - 0
Yeas:	Cannon, Jenson, Macpherson, Dingfelder
Nays:	Beyer, Burley, Smith G.
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/21, 4/20, 4/23, 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Water Resources Department (WRD) to implement the Strategic Water Measurement Plan adopted by the Water Resources Commission (Commission) in 2000. Directs WRD to prioritize and establish requirements for measuring water use of significant diversions according to the quantity of water diverted and the potential effects of water diversions on streamflows. Directs WRD to utilize a phased approach to plan implementation and available department staff and resources. Gives the Commission authority to require a water right owner or the owner or manager of a reservoir already required to install a measuring device to report the amount of water diverted. Authorizes the Commission by rule to require a water right owner to provide water level data following designation of a serious water management problem area. Establishes a grant program operated by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to provide funds for water measuring devices and stream gauging stations. Directs grant awards to be prioritized considering previous investments in a watershed and designation as a high priority watershed under the Strategic Water Measurement Plan. Requires WRD to report to 75th Legislative Assembly on plan implementation and the success of the grant program. Sunsets grant program and reporting requirement on January 2, 2010. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Existing Water Resources Commission authority to require water use measurement
- Cost of water measurement devices
- Use of water measurement information

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original bill.

BACKGROUND: In 2000, the Water Resources Commission adopted the Strategic Water Measurement Plan. The Plan focuses on water diversions that have the greatest effect on streamflows in areas with the greatest needs for fish. In a joint effort with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, WRD has identified "high priority watersheds" on the basis of potential for both flow and fish restoration. The department then developed a statewide inventory of significant diversions: those diversions located in a high priority watersheds which are either (a) already required to measure through a water right condition or (b) authorized to withdraw more than 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) or more than .25 cfs and more than 10 percent of the lowest monthly 50 percent exceedance flow of the stream. The department has identified 2,418 significant diversions in 293 high priority watersheds.

HB 2564-A authorizes WRD to implement the Strategic Water Measurement Plan. The measure amends current law to authorize the Water Resources Commission to require reporting of measurement information by water right owners already required to install a measuring device. A grant program to provide funds to water right owners for the acquisition and installation of measurement devices and stream gauging stations is established in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The grant program is sunset on January 2, 2010.

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