REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Atkinson
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Department of Human Services to grant variances from specified water treatment techniques when treatment is unnecessary for protecting public health. Requires department to announce its intent to grant the variance and either hold a public hearing or notify individual customers by mail or publish notice in the newspaper. Authorizes department to grant a variance if no hearing is requested within 10 days of the notice. Requires department to notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of any variance granted, as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Department of Human Services primacy to administer Safe Drinking Water Act
- Cost to City of Portland if clean water variance not allowed
- High quality of Portland, Bend and Baker City drinking water sources

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The federal Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes states to issue two kinds of variances from EPA drinking water rules. States may issue variances from drinking water standards when, due to the poor quality of all reasonably available raw water sources, water providers cannot meet the standards. Such variances may be issued only when several requirements are met, including imposition of a compliance schedule and regular notification to customers that their water does not meet standards. A second type of variance may be granted when, due to the high quality of raw water sources, Safe Drinking Water Act treatment techniques are unnecessary for protecting public health. Oregon currently has enabling legislation to grant only the first type of variance.