

# House Bill 2956

Sponsored by Representative JENSON (at the request of Oregon Cattlemen's Association)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires that water quality standards established by Environmental Quality Commission meet certain scientific criteria. Requires commission to consider natural factors in developing standards of quality and purity for waters of state.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to water quality standard development; amending ORS 468B.048.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 468B.048 is amended to read:

5 468B.048. (1) The Environmental Quality Commission by rule may establish standards of quality  
6 and purity for the waters of the state in accordance with the public policy set forth in ORS  
7 468B.015. In establishing such standards, the commission shall consider the following factors:

8 (a) The extent, if any, to which floating solids may be permitted in the water;

9 (b) The extent, if any, to which suspended solids, settleable solids, colloids or a combination of  
10 solids with other substances suspended in water may be permitted;

11 (c) The extent, if any, to which organisms of the coliform group, and other bacteriological  
12 organisms or virus may be permitted in the waters;

13 (d) The extent of the oxygen demand which may be permitted in the receiving waters;

14 (e) The minimum dissolved oxygen content of the waters that shall be maintained;

15 (f) The limits of other physical, chemical, biological or radiological properties that may be nec-  
16 essary for preserving the quality and purity of the waters of the state;

17 (g) The extent to which any substance must be excluded from the waters for the protection and  
18 preservation of public health; and

19 (h) The value of stability and the public's right to rely upon standards as adopted for a reason-  
20 able period of time to permit institutions, municipalities, commerce, industries and others to plan,  
21 schedule, finance and operate improvements in an orderly and practical manner.

22 (2) Standards established under this section shall:

23 (a) Be consistent with policies and programs for the use and control of water resources of the  
24 state adopted by the Water Resources Commission under ORS 536.220 to 536.540;

25 (b) **Be developed using scientifically defensible and professionally approved procedures for**  
26 **the collection of credible data, including appropriate quality control and assurance and ade-**  
27 **quate sampling and use of control specimens; and**

28 (c) **Take into account natural contaminants or other natural factors that may affect the**  
29 **quality and purity of the waters of the state.**

30 (3) Subject to the approval of the Department of Environmental Quality, any person responsible  
31 for complying with the standards of water quality or purity established under this section shall de-

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 termine the means, methods, processes, equipment and operation to meet the standards.

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