

Senate Bill 983

Sponsored by Senator BEYER

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**.

Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for water retention projects.

Establishes Water Utilization Fund to finance interest-free loans to public bodies and private entities developing water retention projects. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Water Resources Department for purposes of financing loans.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to water retention; and appropriating money.

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

4 **SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 5 of this 2007 Act, "water retention project" means**
5 **a project designed to increase the amount of useable water on a year-round basis and in-**
6 **cludes, but is not limited to, projects incorporating off-channel storage, ground water re-**
7 **charge and in-stream reservoirs.**

8 **SECTION 2. (1) The Water Utilization Fund is established separate and distinct from the**
9 **General Fund. Interest earned by the Water Utilization Fund shall be credited to the fund.**
10 **Moneys in the Water Utilization Fund are continuously appropriated to the Water Resources**
11 **Department for the purposes described in this section.**

12 **(2) The department shall use moneys in the Water Utilization Fund to provide interest-**
13 **free loans for water retention projects.**

14 **(3) All moneys received by the department as repayments of principal of loans made un-**
15 **der this section shall be deposited in the Water Utilization Fund.**

16 **SECTION 3. (1) Pursuant to ORS 286.560 to 286.580, the State Treasurer may issue lottery**
17 **bonds to finance interest-free loans for water retention projects under sections 1 to 5 of this**
18 **2007 Act.**

19 **(2) The use of lottery bond proceeds under this section is authorized based on the fol-**
20 **lowing findings:**

21 **(a) There is an urgent need to improve and expand publicly owned and privately owned**
22 **water retention projects to support economic development and restore, protect and improve**
23 **watersheds in this state.**

24 **(b) Year-round access to an adequate water supply supports the long-term economic de-**
25 **velopment and livability of this state.**

26 **(c) Local governments and private sector businesses often lack capital and the technical**
27 **capacity to undertake water retention projects.**

28 **(d) Public investments in water retention projects will create jobs and further economic**
29 **growth while ensuring the continued protection of watersheds.**

30 **(3) The aggregate principal amount of lottery bonds issued pursuant to this section may**

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 not exceed the sum of \$100 million plus an additional amount established by the State
2 Treasurer to pay bond-related costs.

3 (4) The net proceeds of the lottery bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be depos-
4 ited in the Water Utilization Fund established under section 2 of this 2007 Act.

5 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Water Resources Department may provide, from moneys in the
6 Water Utilization Fund established in section 2 of this 2007 Act, interest-free loans to public
7 bodies, as defined in ORS 174.109, and to private entities.

8 (2) The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 1
9 to 5 of this 2007 Act, including, but not limited to, rules:

10 (a) Specifying the process by which a public body or private entity may apply for a loan
11 under this section and prescribing the terms and condition of loans;

12 (b) Requiring that 20 percent of the net proceeds of the lottery bonds authorized by sec-
13 tion 3 of this 2007 Act be utilized to provide for preconstruction project studies; and

14 (c) Defining the terms “off-channel storage,” “ground water recharge,” “in-stream res-
15 ervoirs” and “preconstruction project studies.”

16 **SECTION 5.** The Water Resources Department shall allocate at least 15 percent of the
17 net proceeds of the lottery bonds authorized by section 3 of this 2007 Act to water retention
18 projects in each region described in this section. For purposes of this section, the regions
19 are as follows:

20 (1) Region one consists of Clackamas, Columbia, Hood River, Multnomah and Washington
21 Counties;

22 (2) Region two consists of Benton, Clatsop, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook
23 and Yamhill Counties;

24 (3) Region three consists of Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and Josephine Counties;

25 (4) Region four consists of Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake,
26 Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler Counties; and

27 (5) Region five consists of Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and
28 Wallowa Counties.

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