

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 2 - 1

Yeas: Bailey, Barnhart, Boone, Smith J., Cannon

Nays: Gilliam, Jenson

Exc.: Bentz

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/20, 2/26, 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Encourages appropriate reuse of gray water for beneficial uses. Defines “gray water” as waste water from baths, showers, bathroom and kitchen sinks, and laundry. Excludes from definition toilet or garbage wastes or waste water contaminated by soiled diapers. Prohibits construction, installation or operation of a gray water reuse and disposal system without a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality. Directs the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to adopt rules for gray water reuse and disposal system permits. Directs EQC to consider advisory committee recommendations, minimize burden on property owners, and prescribe requirements for gray water systems to protect public health, safety and welfare; public water supplies; and waters of the state. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of “gray water”
- Issues to be addressed by rulemaking advisory committee
- Gray water programs in other states
- Potential gray water contaminants

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds bathroom sinks to definition of gray water. Specifies that gray water does not include waste water contaminated by soiled diapers. Requires permit for gray water systems. Directs EQC to minimize burden of permit requirements on property owners. Directs EQC to adopt requirements for gray water systems that protect the public health, safety and welfare; public water supplies; and waters of the state.

BACKGROUND: Gray water is waste water from domestic sources such as baths, showers, kitchens and laundries. To promote water conservation, the Oregon Building Codes Division recently approved the use of certain gray waters for flushing toilets as an alternate method in the state plumbing code. Under current law, the use of gray water for irrigation of lawns or gardens is prohibited. House Bill 2080A authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality to issue permits for the use of gray water for such purposes.