

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/5, 5/15

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”
- Other states’ gray water programs
- Rulemaking process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.