

75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2009 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

MEASURE: HB 3369-B

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Jenson
Rep. J. Smith
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Walker

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 18 – 4 – 0

House

Yeas: Buckley, C. Edwards, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays: Gilman, Richardson

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker

Nays: Whitsett, Winters

Exc:

Prepared By: Monica Brown, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 5/14, 5/20, 5/21, 6/22, 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Water Resources Commission (WRC) to adopt rules establishing standards for borrowers obtaining loans from Water Development Loan Fund (WDLF). Allows standards to include preference to entities with ad valorem taxing authority. Establishes Water Investment Grant Fund. Authorizes WRC to establish application filing and loan processing fees. Requires public notice of accepted applications. Authorizes WRC to establish guidelines for review of applications that give priority to projects to recharge aquifers in limited and critical ground water areas and those designed to deliver greatest environmental public benefit. Establishes required criteria for WRD to approve loan or grant application. Directs WRD to report to Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly on operation of loan and grant programs.

Directs WRD, in cooperation with DEQ and ODFW, to develop an integrated state water resources strategy to meet in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, and to update the strategy every five years. Requires a report to the Legislature detailing progress towards developing the strategy by February 1, 2011.

Declares an emergency; effective upon passage. Establishes an operative date of April 1, 2010, for sections applicable to loans from WDLF.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding provided within other bills this session
- Definition of Columbia River Basin as it relates to allowable projects

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the bill.

BACKGROUND: The Water Development Loan Fund is authorized by Section I, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution. The fund was established to serve a broad range of eligible borrowers in all regions of the state. The goal in establishing the fund was to provide low-cost, long-term, fixed-rate financing incentives to promote projects to achieve the state's long-term water management goals. Eligible projects include: drainage, irrigation, community water supply (in communities with a population of less than 30,000), fish protection, watershed enhancement, and multipurpose projects.

Oregon is one of two western states without a formal water supply plan. Oregon's surface water is nearly fully allocated during summer months and ground water is showing declines in quantity and quality in some areas. In 2007, the Legislature allocated funds to the Water Resources Department to begin collecting data to increase the state's ability to forecast water demands, as well as identify opportunities for conservation and water storage. This exercise, known as the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative (WSCI) began in 2007 and began producing the first of the data in 2008.