

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote: 6 - 2 - 0
Yeas: Bailey, Barnhart, Boone, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon
Nays: Bentz, Gilliam
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/14, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Water Resources Department (WRD), working closely with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), to develop integrated state water resources strategy (strategy). Directs that strategy describe Oregon's water needs, including instream, ecosystem services, water quality and water supply needs. Directs that strategy take effect upon adoption by Water Resource Commission (WRC). Requires commission to review and update the strategy every five years. Requires WRD, in consultation with DEQ and ODFW, to submit report to Legislative Assembly detailing progress toward developing strategy by February 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Governor's H2O Initiative
- Role of various agencies in decisions affecting water rights
- Appropriate entity to adopt strategy

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: 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 Legislative Assembly allocated funds to the WRD 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 project, known as the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative (WSCI), started in 2007 and began producing data in 2008.