

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bailey, Barnhart, Bentz, Boone, Gilliam, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/12, 5/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires that upon accepting an offer, seller of any real estate that includes well that supplies ground water for domestic purposes must have well tested for arsenic. Authorizes Department of Human Services (Department) to adopt rules requiring additional tests for specific contaminants in specific areas of public health concern. Requires seller to submit test results to Department and to buyer within 90 days of receiving results.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Arsenic is a naturally-occurring element that is odorless, colorless and tasteless
- Uses of data
- Importance of public education

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** As many as 600,000 Oregonians rely on home wells for their drinking water. Since 1989, state law has required that when a property with a well that supplies groundwater for domestic purposes is sold, the well must be tested for nitrate and total coliform bacteria and the results reported to the Department. Senate Bill 739A adds arsenic to the list of chemicals that must be tested for and requires that the results be reported to the buyer in addition to the Department. The United States Environmental Protection Agency, through the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, has long regulated allowable levels of arsenic in public drinking water systems. Exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water over long periods of time increases the risk of internal organ cancers.