FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Prepared by: John Terpening Reviewed by: Susie Jordan Date: 4-25-2011

Measure Description:

Imposes conditions on change of use for water in excess of specified amount if water right authorizes storage of water in federal storage project located in Willamette Basin.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Water Resources Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Summary of Revenue Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure requires the Water Resources Department (WRD) to assemble a work group of affected stakeholders and federal agency representatives if a person files a water right transfer application to change the purpose of water stored within the Willamette River Basin Project. The work group is directed to issue a report regarding if the application could be granted. WRD may not process the application without receiving and approving the report of the work group. The measure stipulates that WRD may not assemble a work group unless the Department has received sufficient funding for the work group from a public or private source. The work group requirement is repealed July 1, 2017 and the measure is effective on passage.

WRD anticipates the need for a limited duration part-time position, totaling 0.50 FTE, to support the convening of the work group, including conduct research and development of reports. WRD estimates the cost of the work group support position and associated services and supplies at approximately \$78,406 Other Funds for each application.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The number of applications and work groups that may be assembled is unknown. Depending on the number of applications received and work groups assembled, meetings required, and scope of any necessary studies, the revenue and expenditure's may exceed WRD's projections.

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