

## FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 83 - A

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

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Prepared by: John Terpening  
Reviewed by: Paul Siebert  
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### Measure Description:

Requires Department of Environmental Quality to establish grant and loan program for owners of subsurface sewage disposal systems.

### Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Environmental Quality

**Summary of Expenditure 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 directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to establish a grant and loan program for owners of subsurface sewage disposal systems. The grants and loans are to be distributed based on financial hardship. The Department is directed to develop and implement a program to assist communities with water quality problems associated with subsurface sewage disposal systems and conduct training programs related to installation, operation, maintenance, and technical assistance for those systems. The measure requires DEQ to establish rules for the programs including determining a percentage of funding to be used for the training programs.

The measure establishes the Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Improvement Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to DEQ, and credits the interest earned back to the fund. The moneys in the fund are to be used for the grants and loans as well as the community assistance and training programs. The fund shall consist of grants, donations, contributions or gifts from any source accepted by the Department.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The source and the amount of funds to be used for the programs are unknown.

Once funding has been identified, the Department will utilize existing staff to establish rules for the programs outlined in the measure. The extent of the programs will be determined by the amount of the funds available. DEQ is not aware of any potential contributions to the fund at this time.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the demand of the individual loans to be awarded are indeterminate and that excessive demand may require additional staff to administer the program. Depending on the cumulative workload requirements added this session or possible budget reductions, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements in the future should this legislation pass.