

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Whisnant
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Dingfelder

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 24 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson, G. Smith, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc: Thatcher

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 15, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends from January 2, 2014 to January 2, 2029 sunset on rules adopted by Water Resources Commission for Deschutes Basin ground water study area. Requires Water Resources Department (WRD) periodically to review its program for Deschutes Basin ground water study area, including identifying changes that may mitigate injury to water rights and offset reductions in scenic flows. Requires WRD to report to Legislative Assembly every five years on outcomes of Deschutes Basin ground water study area, including program impacts on certain users, timing of mitigation and storage improvements, and identification of zones of impact. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal Impact of the measure
- No funding source identified

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds spring systems to the periodic ground water study area review and adds a review of impacts on the headwaters of the Metolius River to the department's report every five years to the legislature.

BACKGROUND: The Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program (Program) was established by WRD in 2002 with the goals of maintaining flows for the Deschutes Scenic Waterway and instream water rights, facilitating the restoration of flows in the middle reach of the Deschutes River below Bend, and accommodating growth in the region through new groundwater development. The Program requires applicants for new groundwater withdrawals in the Deschutes Basin ground water study area to mitigate those withdrawals by placing a similar amount of water instream. The Program provides tools that groundwater applicants can use to secure the mitigation credits needed to develop new groundwater permits. House Bill 3623 B would extend the sunset on the Program until January 2, 2029.