

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 by Prior Reference
Vote:	3 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays:	Olsen, Thomsen
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/8, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to establish program to provide loans and grants to owners of subsurface sewage disposal systems for repairs, replacement and decommissioning of such systems and development of community-based solutions for sewage disposal problems. Directs DEQ to design loans and grants to protect public health and water quality and award based on demonstration of financial hardship. Requires DEQ to develop and implement a program to assist communities in addressing issues associated with subsurface sewage disposal systems and to conduct training programs related to such systems. Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules to carry out above programs, including specification of fixed percentage of moneys in fund to be used for training programs. Establishes Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Improvement Fund (Fund). Establishes Fund is to be continuously appropriated to DEQ to support grant and loan program; pay all DEQ costs to develop and implement program to assist communities; and fund training programs. Authorizes DEQ to accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts from any source for fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of septic system failures
- Use of penalty money to fund program
- Existing training programs for septic system inspectors and education programs for homeowners
- Grant and loan fund administration and rules

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes provisions directing penalty money to fund.

BACKGROUND: Over 30 percent of Oregonians dispose of wastewater from their homes and businesses through the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems). The siting, design, installation and ongoing operation and maintenance of septic systems are regulated by DEQ. The Department estimates that 10 percent of existing septic systems in Oregon are in need of repair or replacement to protect human health and the environment. Senate Bill 83 A would direct DEQ to establish a grant and loan program to assist owners of septic systems in need of repair, replacement or decommissioning.