

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Action:</b>        | Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure         |
| <b>Vote:</b>          | 5 - 0 - 0                               |
| <b>Yeas:</b>          | Bates, Hansell, Hass, Olsen, Dingfelder |
| <b>Nays:</b>          | 0                                       |
| <b>Exc.:</b>          | 0                                       |
| <b>Prepared By:</b>   | Beth Reiley, Administrator              |
| <b>Meeting Dates:</b> | 5/15, 5/20                              |

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows water improvement district to take ownership and operate existing sanitary sewer facility. Amends powers of water improvement district to include collecting and treating sewage. Authorizes improvement district board upon taking ownership of existing sanitary sewer facilities to adopt plans and specifications for sewer facilities of former owner of facilities without securing engineer to prepare new plans and specifications. Allows water district to file notice of lien and collect delinquent charges in manner consistent with collection of incurred charges by irrigation district. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Directors of various River Meadows entities wish to consolidate ownership and management of utility functions
- Other options considered

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

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon law (Chapter 554) regulates how public corporations can be formed to provide water services, including domestic water service. Current law does not allow water improvement districts that were formed under Chapter 554 to own and operate sanitary sewer facilities. Chapter 554 also regulates how a water district formed as a public corporation can collect on delinquent charges. Currently, the process that a Chapter 554 corporation uses to collect delinquent charges is somewhat different from the process used by irrigation districts to collect delinquent charges.

House Bill 3096A would allow public water improvement companies to take ownership of and operate existing sewer collection and treatment systems. This would allow consolidation of ownership and management of both water and sewer systems in the rare situation when a public water improvement company wishes to take over management of an existing sewer system. House Bill 3096A would also provide a consistent process for public water improvements and irrigation districts to collect delinquent fees.