

REVENUE:

FISCAL:

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Ways and Means

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: James LaBar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines key terms. Authorizes Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) to provide loans or grants for levee project. When considering project eligibility, IFA must find that levee project substantially contributes to improvement, expansion, or repair of state's or municipality's infrastructure system and is essential for use of development of farms, industrial, or commercial land in Oregon. Authorizes Water Resource Department to inspect, evaluate and assess condition of levee with permission of levee's owner. Maintains legal liabilities of levee's owners. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(-1 Amendment) Adds "corporations or companies for drainage or flood control" to list of organizations that may receive financial assistance in the form of loan or grants for a levee project.

BACKGROUND: The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is aimed at reducing the impact of flooding on private and public structures. This is achieved by providing affordable insurance for qualifying property owners and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. Many levees in Oregon are in need of inspection or repair in order to maintain FEMA's accreditation under the National Flood Insurance Program. Previously, inspections were performed by the Army Corps of Engineering, however, private engineering firms, which charge higher fees to cover liability insurance payments, are presently conducting the inspections.

Senate Bill 306 would authorize the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) to provide loans or grants for levee projects. When considering project eligibility, IFA must find that the levee project substantially contributes to the improvement, expansion, or repair of the state's or municipality's infrastructure system and is essential for use of development of farms, industrial, or commercial land in Oregon. Additionally, Senate Bill 306 would authorize the Water Resource Department to inspect, evaluate, and assess the condition of a levee with the permission of the levee's owner. The measure also would maintain the legal liabilities of a levee's owners.