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SUMMARY

Directs Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule methodology for Department of Environmental Quality to apply certain water quality standards in assessing waters of state.

Requires department's assessments and follow-up assessments to be consistent with methodology.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to methodology for assessing quality of waters of the state.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 468B.

SECTION 2. (1) The Environmental Quality Commission shall adopt by rule a methodology for assessing waters of the state pursuant to sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 92-500), as amended. The methodology shall include, but need not be limited to, methods for applying the numeric and narrative standards of quality and purity for waters of the state adopted by the commission by rule under ORS 468B.030, 468B.035 and 468B.048, and any numeric interpretation of narrative standards.

(2) All assessments and follow-up assessments by the Department of Environmental Quality of waters of the state pursuant to sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 92-500), as amended, shall be consistent with the methodology adopted under subsection (1) of this section.