

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Energy and Environment

**REVENUE:** May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:** None

**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 4/16

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes Environmental Quality Commission, not more than once each calendar year, to increase water quality permit fees. Prohibits annual increase exceeding anticipated increase in cost of administering program or three percent, whichever is lower, unless larger increase is legislatively approved.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** (-1 amendment) Modifies limitation on EQC authority to increase fees above specified limits to “unless larger increase is provided for in Department of Environmental Quality legislatively approved budget.”

**BACKGROUND:** The federal Environmental Protection Agency has delegated authority to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to operate the federal Clean Water Act in Oregon. DEQ’s wastewater management program regulates and minimizes adverse impacts of pollution on Oregon’s waters from point sources of pollution.