

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

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

**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:**

**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 4/15

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule methodology for assessing waters of state pursuant to sections 303(d) and 305(b) of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 92-500). Requires Department of Environmental Quality’s assessments and follow-up assessments to be consistent with methodology.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** (Proposed – 2 Amendment) Replaces measure. Requires Department of Environmental Quality when developing methodologies for assessment of waters of state pursuant to sections 202(d) and 305(b) of Federal Water Pollution Control Act to: solicit independent scientific and technical input when developing or selecting assessment methodologies prior to developing assessments; provide public notice and opportunity to comment on draft assessment methodologies; and provide informational overview of draft assessment methodology at hearing before Environmental Quality Commission.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) uses water quality standards to assess whether the quality of Oregon’s rivers and lakes is adequate for fish and other aquatic life, recreation, drinking, agriculture, industry and other uses. DEQ also uses the standards as regulatory tools to prevent pollution of the state’s waters. The Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards designating beneficial uses of the state’s waters and setting criteria designed to protect those uses. States submit their standards to EPA for approval.