

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Vote:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Department of Environmental Quality to use money in Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to buy or refinance debt obligations of public agencies for all projects otherwise eligible for financial assistance through Fund. Extends loan term that may be authorized by Environmental Quality Commission from 20 to 30 years.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- local governments support to make projects more affordable
- mostly federal funds support the revolving loan program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is established pursuant to ORS 468.423 – 468.440 and the 1987 amendments to the federal Clean Water Act. The purpose of the CWSRF is to provide low interest loans to local governments for the planning, design and construction of wastewater treatment facilities, implementation of nonpoint source pollution management plans, and the design and implementation of estuary management plans. The loan repayment period is a maximum of 20 years, and all repayments, including interest and principal, are credited to the CWSRF. Eligible agencies include federally recognized Indian tribal governments, cities, counties, sanitary districts, soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts, various special districts and certain intergovernmental entities. Since 1990, the program has loaned \$1 billion to 146 communities.

House Bill 2451 would authorize the Department of Environmental Quality to use the CWSRF to buy or refinance the debt obligations of public agencies for all projects that are eligible for such funding.