

**FULL COMMITTEE PONY**

**HB 5042**

**Water Resources Department**

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HB 5042 is the budget bill for the Water Resources Department. The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended budget includes the provision of two limited duration, General Fund positions comprising 1.75 FTE for expanded grant activities should lottery bond proceeds made available for those purposes. The budget provides for a limited-duration position to address water right processing backlogs and permanent position to assist with water management and monitoring in the Klamath basin. Support for the Integrated Water Resource Supply Development program, including the provision of three permanent, General Fund positions, is included in the budget along with the establishment of a chief groundwater technology scientist position. The total funds budget of \$54.4 million is 14.8 percent lower than the legislatively approved budget for the 2013-15 biennium primarily due to the reduction of expenditure authority related to unissued general obligation bonds for the Water Development Loan Fund.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5042 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.