

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 02/12/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, Rescind Subsequent Referral To Revenue, And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/05, 02/12

House

Yeas: 8 - Bentz, Boone, Helm, Weidner, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Holvey

Exc: 1 - Heard

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

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:

- Program background
- Types of eligible projects
- Benefits accruing to local communities from longer loan terms

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Extends loan term that may be authorized by Environmental Quality Commission from 20 to 30 years.

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 2451A 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.