

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Business and Transportation**

**MEASURE: SB 306 A**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 02/25/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference  
(Printed A-Eng).

**Meeting Dates:** 02/25

**Vote:**  
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

**Prepared By:** James LaBar, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) to provide loans or grants for levee project to drainage districts, corporations for drainage or flood control or for-profit or nonprofit entities and individuals in the ownership, construction, inspection, accreditation, certification or repair of levees. Specifies that when considering project eligibility, IFA must find that levee project substantially contributes to improvement, expansion or repair of state's or municipality's infrastructure system and is essential for use of development of farms, industrial or commercial land in Oregon to approve project. Authorizes Water Resources Department to inspect, evaluate and assess condition of levee with permission of levee's owner. Maintains legal liabilities of levee owners. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Statewide coordination for these types of projects in the future
- Past dike failures around the Port of Portland
- Economic development for rural Oregon
- Challenges in acquiring insurance

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Adds "corporations or companies for drainage or flood control" to list of organizations that may receive financial assistance in the form of loan or grants for a levee project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is aimed at reducing the impact of flooding on private and public structures. This is achieved by providing affordable insurance for qualifying property owners and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. Many levees in Oregon are in need of inspection or repair in order to maintain FEMA's accreditation under the NFIP. Previously, inspections were performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; however, private engineering firms, which charge higher fees to cover liability insurance payments, are presently conducting the inspections.

Senate Bill 306-A authorizes the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) to provide loans or grants for levee projects. When considering project eligibility, IFA must find that the levee project substantially contributes to the improvement, expansion or repair of the state's or municipality's infrastructure system and is essential for use of development of farms, industrial or commercial land in Oregon. Additionally, Senate Bill 306-A authorizes the Water

Resources Department to inspect, evaluate, and assess the condition of a levee with the permission of the levee's owner. The measure also maintains the legal liabilities of a levee's owners.