

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****House Committee On Energy and Environment****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/16/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 04/16**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Boone, Helm, Holvey, Reardon, Vega Pederson

Nays: 4 - Bentz, Heard, Johnson, Weidner

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows Environmental Quality Commission to increase water quality permit fees in amount exceeding anticipated increase in cost of administering program or three percent if larger increase is provided for in Department of Environmental Quality's legislatively approved budget.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of fee increases
- Budget shortfalls at DEQ
- Need for new data management system and staff to address permit backlog

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Modifies limitation on Environmental Quality Commission authority to increase fees.

**BACKGROUND:**

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has delegated authority to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to operate the federal Clean Water Act in Oregon. DEQ's wastewater management program regulates and minimizes adverse impacts of pollution on Oregon's waters from point sources of pollution. Currently, the Environmental Quality Commission has the authority, not more than once each calendar year, to increase water quality permit fees in an amount not to exceed the anticipated increase in the cost of administering the permit program or three percent, whichever is less. House Bill 3522A would authorize a larger fee increase if the increase is provided for in DEQ's legislatively approved budget.