

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3076 - A

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Linda Ames
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Measure Description:

Requires landlord of rental property with well that supplies ground water for domestic purposes to test well for contaminants at specified times.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
Personal Services	70,856	51,686
Services and Supplies	3,230	0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$74,086	\$51,686

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 3076:

- Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to analyze test results received from transactions for the sale or exchange of real estate that includes a well that supplies ground water for domestic purposes, and to use the data to identify areas with ground water contaminant problems. OHA is required to provide education to areas identified as having ground water contamination problems.
- Establishes the Safe Ground Water Fund, and permits OHA to make grants and loans to (1) low income homeowners and rental property owners for the purpose of treating ground water used domestically in areas identified as having ground water contamination problems; (2) local health departments for the purpose of providing ground water contaminant education and for the purpose of providing free or low cost well testing.

The fiscal impact of this bill on OHA is anticipated to have a minimum impact of \$74,086 General Fund for the 2015-17 biennium, and \$51,686 General Fund for the 2017-19 biennium. This amount reflects partial funding of existing federally funded positions to carry out the requirements of this grant which cannot be charged to the federally funded Domestic Well Safety Program (DWSP). The bill requires OHA to analyze test results received from owners of wells, identifying areas of contamination and providing training and education regarding ground water contamination. To carry out this work, OHA would need an equivalent to 0.19 FTE of a Public Health Educator 2 position for the 2015-17 biennium, and 0.25 FTE for the 2017-19 biennium. These activities cannot be charged to the DWSP, and the bill does not specify that moneys from the Safe Ground Water Fund established by the bill can be used for this purpose.

Currently, the federally funded Domestic Well Safety Program (DWSP) is responsible for the maintenance and analysis of data related to well-testing. DWSP also provides ground water contaminant education, and currently funds two small grants to local health departments annually.

Long-term funding for DWSP is uncertain, with current funding for the program lasting only through September 2015. Information about renewed federal funding for the program has not yet been received.

The bill establishes the Safe Ground Water Fund, and allows OHA to accept funding for this fund from any grant, donation or gift. As this time, no source of funding has been identified.

The bill permits OHA to make grants and loans to low income homeowners and rental property owners, and to local health departments from moneys in the Safe Ground Water Fund. These grants would necessitate additional resources beyond the capacity of DWSP. In addition, staff time would be required to solicit applications for the grants and loans, to review the grant and loan applications, administer the grants and loans over time, and to provide technical assistance to grant and loan recipients. The bill permits OHA to use moneys in the Safe Ground Water Fund to cover the costs of administering these grants and loans.

This bill requires budgetary action for the appropriation of General Fund.