

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Energy and Environment****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/21/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways
And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 04/09, 04/21**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Weidner

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to analyze test results of wells that supply groundwater for domestic use, identify areas with ground water contamination and provide ground water contamination education in those areas. Directs OHA to provide results and other information to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Authorizes OHA to collaborate with DEQ or other agency to provide education or notify local health department that ground water contamination education is necessary in their area. Establishes Safe Ground Water Fund (Fund). Authorizes OHA to make grants and loans from Fund to low-income and rental property owners to assist with installation of treatment systems for ground water in areas OHA has identified as having ground water contamination problems. Requires loan repayment within five years. Authorizes OHA to make grants from Fund to assist local health departments, non-profit organizations, soil and water conservation districts and Oregon State University Extension Service to provide groundwater contaminant education and to conduct free or low cost well tests.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Percentage of Oregonians who rely on ground water for drinking water supply
- Groundwater contaminants
- Cost of water quality tests

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes requirements for landlord to test wells, submit results to Oregon Health Authority, and provide results to new tenants. Extends eligibility to receive grants to non-profits, soil and water conservation districts and Oregon State University Extension Service. Deletes addition to seller disclosure statement.

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 23 percent of Oregonians rely on domestic wells, or private wells, as their primary source of drinking water. ORS 448.271 requires testing of domestic well water for arsenic, nitrates and total coliform bacteria at the time of property sale or exchange. The seller is required to submit test results to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and buyer within 90 days of receiving the results.

House Bill 3076A would direct OHA to analyze ground water test results, identify areas with ground water contamination and provide education in those areas. The measure would also establish the Safe Ground Water Fund and authorize OHA to make grants and loans to low-income and rental property owners to assist with the installation of treatment systems in areas identified by OHA as having ground water contamination problems.