

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/05/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 06/05

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 8 - Burdick, Devlin, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Steiner Hayward

Exc: 4 - Shields, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

House

Yeas: 7 - Buckley, Gomberg, Komp, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Williamson

Nays: 4 - Huffman, McLane, Whisnant, Whitsett

Exc: 1 - Smith

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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:

- Costs increase faster than inflation
- Bill needed to fully fund the DEQ wastewater program assumed in the Co-chair budget

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 3522 would authorize a larger fee increase if the increase is provided for in DEQ’s legislatively approved budget.