

# Senate Bill 268

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## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates task force for studying options for providing Water Resources Department with stable budget or increased revenues.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to the Task Force on Water Resources Department Funding; and declaring an emergency.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Water Resources Department Funding is established,**  
4 **consisting of not fewer than 10 or more than 16 members appointed as follows:**

5 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two nonvoting members from among**  
6 **members of the Senate. The two members appointed under this paragraph may not be from**  
7 **the same political party.**

8 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two nonvoting members**  
9 **from among members of the House of Representatives. The two members appointed under**  
10 **this paragraph may not be from the same political party.**

11 (c) **The Water Resources Commission shall appoint one nonvoting member from among**  
12 **members of the commission.**

13 (d) **The Governor shall appoint not fewer than 5 or more than 11 members. In making**  
14 **appointments to the task force, the Governor shall endeavor, to the extent the Governor**  
15 **deems practicable, to appoint members representative of interests of the conservation com-**  
16 **munity, counties, Indian tribes, industrial water users, irrigated agriculture, irrigation dis-**  
17 **tricts and municipal water suppliers.**

18 (2) **The task force shall identify funding options for providing stable or increased funding**  
19 **for the Water Resources Department. Options reviewed and considered by the task force**  
20 **must include but need not be limited to the establishment of a water right management fee.**  
21 **As part of the option identification process, the task force shall consider:**

22 (a) **The role for using General Fund moneys to manage the water resources of this state**  
23 **for the benefit of all Oregonians;**

24 (b) **Whether individual beneficiaries of department services should have greater financial**  
25 **responsibility for the services they receive;**

26 (c) **Options for preventing new revenues from being used for purposes other than funding**  
27 **of the department;**

28 (d) **Options for ensuring that General Fund support is not reduced as a result of new**  
29 **fees;**  
30

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 (e) Improved or new services that would warrant new revenue streams;
- 2 (f) The practicality of proposed options, including but not limited to the logistics of im-
- 3 plementation and administration;
- 4 (g) Whether options will result in a stable budget or increased funding for the depart-
- 5 ment; and
- 6 (h) The equity of proposed options, including but not limited to equity between:
- 7 (A) Rural and urban areas;
- 8 (B) Agricultural and urban users;
- 9 (C) In-stream and out-of-stream uses; and
- 10 (D) Geographic sectors of this state.
- 11 (3) The task force may accept comments and exhibits from public and private sources.
- 12 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
- 13 transaction of business.
- 14 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
- 15 members of the task force.
- 16 (6) The task force shall elect one of its voting members to serve as chairperson.
- 17 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
- 18 ment to become immediately effective.
- 19 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the Governor or a repre-
- 20 sentative of the Governor.
- 21 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.
- 22 (10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and
- 23 may include recommendations for legislation, to the Governor, an interim or regular com-
- 24 mittee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources and the Water Resources
- 25 Commission no later than February 1, 2016.
- 26 (11) The department shall provide staff support to the task force.
- 27 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
- 28 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
- 29 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and
- 30 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
- 31 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the department for purposes of
- 32 the task force.
- 33 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
- 34 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
- 35 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
- 36 consider necessary to perform their duties.
- 37 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the 2017
- 38 regular session of the Legislative Assembly as specified in ORS 171.010.
- 39 **SECTION 3.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
- 40 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
- 41 on its passage.
- 42