

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use and Water

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Sub. Referrals: Joint Committee On Ways

Revenue: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

and Means

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes 11 member Task Force on Drought Emergency Response (Task Force). Requires Task Force to research and evaluate potential tools to prepare for or deal with drought emergencies. Task Force activities may include, but are not limited to: 1) evaluating sufficiency of existing tools to address short-term drought response and recommending additional tools; 2) identify options to minimize drought impacts on agriculture, municipal, other interests and fish and wildlife; 3) identify tools to assist small water providers in developing water management conservation or efficiency plans and anticipating drought risks and responses; 4) identify data and resources necessary for anticipating drought and drought impacts; or 5) recommend improvements in information sharing. Requires Task Force to report to interim committee related to natural resources no later than November 1, 2016. Requires Water Resources Department to provide staff support. Sunsets task force December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(Proposed -1 Amendment) Broadens role of person appointed to Task Force on Drought Emergency Response to represent agriculture, rather than irrigated agriculture.

BACKGROUND:

This last year low snowpack and streamflows along with record high temperatures combined to create drought conditions across Oregon. By the end of this year's water year, September 30, 2015, 25 of Oregon's 36 counties had requested and received drought declarations from the Governor.