

HB 3053 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes seven-member Task Force on Water Infrastructure Investment (Task Force). Directs Task Force to identify efficient and practical options to promote private investment in water diversion and delivery infrastructure to be owned or operated by irrigation district, drainage district, water improvement district, water control district or other public body. Details rules for appointing Task Force members and for conducting Task Force business. Requires Task Force to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018. Directs Oregon Water Resources Department to provide staff to Task Force and directs all state agencies to assist in duties and provide information and advice to Task Force. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Water infrastructure includes everything needed to divert, transport, pump, store, treat and deliver water for a variety of purposes, including providing drinking water and irrigation. In areas without adequate water supply sources, especially in the Western United States, water may need to be stored and transported over great distances or across geographic impediments. Infrastructure typically includes pumps, pipes, underground and above ground storage tanks and treatment systems.

Oregon, like states across the country, has many aging water infrastructures, some from the early twentieth century, which are nearing or at the end of their useful life. The cost of improving, repairing and replacing water infrastructure is often beyond the ability of a single local, private or state interest to fund on their own.

House Bill 3053 would establish the Water Infrastructure Investment Task Force to explore ways to authorize and incentivize private-public partnerships in funding for water diversion and delivery infrastructure.