

HB 2027 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Water Storage Fund. Allows State Treasurer to issue lottery bonds to Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for deposit into Water Storage Fund. Establishes Dry Day Subaccount within Water Storage Fund. Continuously appropriates money from OWRD to plan, develop, construct and operate projects to supply water to ameliorate effect of drought.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Prohibits construction of bridge within designated areas of Deschutes Scenic Waterway.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has recently experienced five unusually dry years, straining wildlife, agricultural, and recreational prospects in the state. Throughout 2016, many streams approached record low levels despite a relatively wet winter and spring. In 2016, Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order directing state agencies to plan for resiliency to drought.

House Bill 2027 would create a fund that would direct money to drought relief and prevention measures.