

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2027 - B12

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: 7/4/17

Measure Description:

Amends provisions relating to irrigation districts.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Water Resources Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Please see analysis

Analysis:

The proposed B12 amendment replaces the bill. The amended bill would amend current law that requires the Water Resources Department to establish a pilot program that allows certain irrigation districts to allow for temporary transfer of water between lands within the legal boundaries of each district. This measure allows for an irrigation district that is located within the Klamath Project to participate in the pilot program if any of the currently identified districts are unable to participate in the pilot.

Each participating district must follow specific procedures outlined in law including the keeping of accurate records regarding locations of use, measurement of use, statements from landowners authorizing the change in use, and maps identifying the location of use by priority for Water Resource Department review.

There are currently 15 districts identified to participate in the pilot project. The program was set up to allow efficient processing and review of simple and straightforward temporary transfers, with more complex or permanent transfers needing to go through the regular transfer process. Watermasters review all the transfers to ensure that the lands are within the district’s boundaries and that there is no injury to other water rights. The current 15 irrigation districts span seven Watermaster districts and therefore the review process required has a minimal impact on any single Watermaster district.

All the irrigation districts in the Klamath Project are within a single Watermaster district. The additional workload that would be generated due to the review requirements of the pilot project would vary significantly depending on the number of irrigation districts participating. The actual fiscal impact is indeterminate.