

HB 2295 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 02/22/17

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 7-1-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Barnhart, Bentz, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Power, Smith DB

Nays: 1 - Reschke

Exc: 1 - Boone

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases fees, maximum fees and fee return thresholds for Water Resources Department services, operative July 1, 2017. Eliminates fee, maximum fee and fee return threshold reductions scheduled for July 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of fee increases
- Effect of reducing current staff levels
- Average of 15.88 percent increase
- Fee increase will maintain current staffing levels
- Role of four year sunset in evaluating fee

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) conducts a variety of transactions, including processing water right applications and transfers and issuing water right certificates and limited licenses. The fees charged by OWRD are set in statute and were temporarily increased with the passage of House Bill 2259 (2013); those temporary increases are scheduled to sunset and revert back to the 2009 fee levels beginning July 1, 2017.

House Bill 2295 would increase fees for certain OWRD services and eliminate the fee reductions scheduled for July 1, 2017.