

**HB 2954 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Energy and Environment**

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**Action Date:** 03/27/17

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

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Barnhart, Bentz, Boone, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Power, Reschke, Smith DB

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates \$5,000,000 from General Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2017 to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for purpose of upgrading the Crescent Sanitary District sewer system.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- All Crescent city businesses and residents rely on individual septic systems
- 45.1 percent of the residents of Crescent Sanitary District are considered low or moderate income
- Aged and failing septic systems, coupled with high soil permeability resulting in pollution of Deschutes River and ground water

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Crescent, Oregon is located along the Highway 97 corridor between the Walker and Cascade Mountain ranges. The city does not have a city wide wastewater facility, instead businesses and residents rely on individual septic systems. Many of these systems are aged and failing, and the resulting pollution of the local ground water and the Deschutes River, with high levels of nitrates, has led the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to place the Crescent area on a moratorium prohibiting the installation of any new septic systems. The Crescent Sanitary District is a volunteer board of directors comprised of community district members dedicated to finding a solution to the city's wastewater issues.

House Bill 2954 would appropriate \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the purpose of upgrading the Crescent Sanitary District sewer system.