

House Bill 2097

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Makes findings and declarations regarding use of state region approach to water resource management and drought resilience.

Directs Water Resources Department to establish and administer six target regions within state for purpose of addressing priorities and achieving goals to improve water resource management and drought resiliency. Requires department to consult with Oregon Business Development Department, Regional Solutions Program and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board regarding establishment and administration of target regions. Requires Water Resources Department to establish transition teams to assist department with establishment of target regions.

Requires joint agency report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2018, regarding opportunities for integrating resources to optimize water development or water supply study resources.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to water resource target regions.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

5 (1) **The development of new water supplies, including but not limited to storage, reuse**
6 **and conservation to meet the economic and community development needs of people and the**
7 **in-stream flow needs for native aquatic freshwater species is the key priority of the state for**
8 **achieving water resource management and drought resiliency.**

9 (2) **Although the key priority described in subsection (1) of this section is of statewide**
10 **concern, in some regions of the state the opportunities to address priorities and achieve**
11 **goals are similar to, but may not be compatible with, the ideas, projects, policy needs or**
12 **opportunities to address priorities and achieve goals present in other regions of the state.**

13 (3) **If appropriate opportunity and flexibility to work regionally is given, significant op-**
14 **portunities exist for partnerships, leveraging of resources, coinvestment and collaborative**
15 **solutions for both small and large river basins.**

16 (4) **There is a significant need to identify and target specific regions of the state where**
17 **creative planning, coordination, policy development and resource investments can occur to**
18 **benefit the regions, but not unduly impact or set negative precedents for other regions of**
19 **the state where a similar approach might have negative consequences.**

20 (5) **A significant number of plans and studies have been conducted in various regions**
21 **within the state to identify possibilities for meeting the key priority described in subsection**
22 **(1) of this section.**

23 (6) **There are many programs, agencies and resources that may be coordinated and inte-**
24 **grated to help address regional priorities and achieve regional goals, which can then assist**
25 **the addressing of state priorities and achievement of state goals.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (7) A targeted water sustainability and infrastructure investment program is needed in
2 identified target areas to achieve the key priority described in subsection (1) of this section.

3 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Water Resources Department shall establish and administer six
4 target regions within the state, having similar water supply attributes, for the purpose of
5 integrating resources and aggressively pursuing regional policy and project implementation
6 of short and long-term water supply solutions. The department shall consult with the Oregon
7 Business Development Department, the Regional Solutions Program and the Oregon
8 Watershed Enhancement Board in the establishment and administration of the regions.

9 (2) The six target regions established by the Water Resources Department under this
10 section shall consist of:

11 (a) An Upper Columbia and Snake River Region that includes the lands that encompass
12 the tributaries to, and the mainstems of, the Snake River and the upper Columbia River
13 down to the John Day Dam.

14 (b) A Deschutes Region that includes the lands that encompass the tributaries to, and
15 the mainstem of, the Deschutes River.

16 (c) A Willamette Region that includes the lands that encompass the tributaries to, and
17 the mainstem of, the Willamette River.

18 (d) A Coastal Stream Region that includes the lands that encompass the tributaries to,
19 and the mainstem of, the Willamette River.

20 (e) A Klamath Region that includes the lands that encompass the tributaries to, and the
21 mainstem of, the Klamath River.

22 (f) An Interior Region that includes the lands where none of the water bodies drain into
23 a mainstem tributary to the Pacific Ocean or into the Pacific Ocean itself.

24 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Water Resources Department shall establish a baseline of need and
25 opportunity within each of the six target regions described in section 2 of this 2017 Act. The
26 baseline shall be for the purpose of prioritizing actions during each biennium, including but
27 not limited to prioritizing study funding, project implementation funding or place-based pol-
28 icy development, to address regional priorities and achieve regional goals as described in
29 section 1 of this 2017 Act. To the extent practicable, the department shall rely on local
30 place-based plans and other existing plans and studies to establish the baselines.

31 (2) The Water Resources Department shall consult with the Oregon Business Develop-
32 ment Department, the Regional Solutions Program and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement
33 Board to identify opportunities for integrating resources to optimize water development or
34 water supply study resources to meet the baseline needs of the six target regions.

35 (3) The Water Resources Department shall harmonize its work with, at a minimum:

36 (a) Any ongoing plans, declarations of cooperation and administrative structures estab-
37 lished for the Upper Columbia and Snake River Region, Deschutes Basin, Klamath Basin,
38 Umatilla Basin or Willamette Basin;

39 (b) Lake and Harney County groundwater study agreements and proposals; and

40 (c) The watershed restoration plans within the Coastal Stream Region.

41 **SECTION 4.** The Water Resources Department, the Oregon Business Development De-
42 partment, the Regional Solutions Program and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
43 shall jointly report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural
44 resources in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 no later than September 15, 2018, regarding
45 opportunities for integrating resources to optimize water development or water supply study

1 resources to meet the baseline needs of the six target regions established under section 2
2 of this 2017 Act. The report may include recommendations for legislation to capitalize on the
3 opportunities. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information regarding the po-
4 tential for creating a target region water supply infrastructure investment account.

5 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Water Resources Department shall establish six regional transition
6 teams to assist the department in planning the establishment and administration of the
7 target regions described in section 2 of this 2017 Act. The regional transition teams shall
8 include, at a minimum, the following entities:

9 (a) For the Upper Columbia and Snake River Region:

10 (A) The Northeast Oregon Water Association;

11 (B) The Grande Ronde Model Watershed; and

12 (C) The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.

13 (b) For the Deschutes Region:

14 (A) The Deschutes Water Alliance; and

15 (B) The Deschutes River Conservancy.

16 (c) For the Willamette Region:

17 (A) The Willamette Partnership;

18 (B) The Willamette Special Investment Partnership;

19 (C) The Willamette Basin Review Reservoir Study participants; and

20 (D) The Willamette Water 2100 project team.

21 (d) For the Coastal Stream Region, the watershed councils of the region.

22 (e) For the Klamath Region, the appointed negotiating entities to the Klamath Basin
23 agreements.

24 (f) For the Interior Region, the lead entities working with the department on the interior
25 groundwater study.

26 (2) The department shall coordinate with affected Native American tribes of each region
27 as necessary throughout any planning process.

28 **SECTION 6.** Section 4 of this 2017 Act is repealed January 2, 2019.

29 **SECTION 7.** Section 5 of this 2017 Act is repealed January 2, 2021.

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