

**HB 2008 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

---

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/9

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates urban flood safety and water quality district in portion of Multnomah County within urban growth boundary adopted by Metro, for purposes of managing and improving levee system, drainage and natural areas to provide for flood safety and contribute to water quality, habitat, and landscape resiliency. Outlines process for selecting board of directors and sets forth powers and duties of district and district board. Authorizes district board to impose charges, assessments, and taxes, and to issue bonds. Authorizes district board to dissolve certain drainage districts and water improvement corporations and requires urban flood safety and water quality district to assume their duties, assets and liabilities. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-2 Replaces original bill. Revises definitions and purpose of district. Modifies board composition. Directs board to establish and maintain defined boundaries for district. Modifies provisions related to condemnation authority, water rights, enforcement authority, watershed planning, ad valorem taxes, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

**BACKGROUND:**

A system of levees protects citizens, property, and critical infrastructure from flooding along the Columbia River over a 27-mile stretch between Troutdale and North Portland. The levees are managed by four separate drainage districts, which have been able to fund and complete only minor improvements. Following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) overhauled federal standards for levees; under these new standards, the Columbia levee system is no longer compliant.