

SB 27 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/11/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Fagan, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 1 - Knopp

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/23, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt by rule a schedule of fees to be assessed on water suppliers to partially defray the costs of surveying, investigating, and remedying drinking water system safety. Requires fee schedule to be graduated based on the size and type of water system. Limits fee increases to once per calendar year according to prescribed limits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Utilization of fee funds
- Proportionality of fee structure
- General Fund availability
- Recent water quality issues
- Structure as fee versus tax

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Specifies statutory duties to which fees apply. Clarifies annual fee cap.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for Oregon's 3,400 public water systems. DWS promotes voluntary compliance with state and federal drinking water standards, including the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). DWS emphasizes prevention of contamination through source water protection, provides technical assistance to water systems, and provides water system operator training.

Senate Bill 27-A revises DWS' statutory fee authority to recover sanitary survey costs and to charge an annual regulatory fee based on water system size and type.