

## HB 2331 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Natural Resources

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**Action Date:** 04/09/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Barreto, Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger, Witt

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Kailey Kornhauser, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/4, 4/9

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes that the Water Resources Commission (Commission) may not enforce general or special well standards more than three years after a well log has been filed for logs filed on or after the effective date of Act. Establishes that Commission may, at any time, enforce standards in effect when work was completed if log contains material misrepresentation. Establishes Task Force on Oregon Well Construction Enforcement Activities. Establishes that Task Force consists of 14 members representing specified stakeholder groups. Requires that Task Force review and make recommendations on: priorities and procedures; limiting enforcement of well construction standards; enforcement, operations, and maintenance practices for well construction; potential improvements to well construction and enforcement; and methods to improve well construction and inspection. Requires Task Force submit report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to water by September 15, 2020. Requires Water Resources Department provide staff support for Task Force. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2020. Establishes that Act applies to wells with logs filed on or after effective date. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Frequency of well inspections
- Review of well logs
- Stakeholders to be included on task force

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Water Resources Commission is responsible for adopting and enforcing general rules and standards relating to the construction and maintenance of wells. A well log is a document that contains information on the history of the well and the ground surrounding it. Well contractors file logs with the state upon completion of a new well, and when maintenance or alterations have occurred. A well log includes information about the well, a history of pump installation and general maintenance, and ground water level and quality.

House Bill 2331 A would establish that the Water Resources Commission has a specific amount of time to enforce general or special standards related to well construction activities, and establish the Task Force on Oregon Well Construction Enforcement Activities.