

HB 3326 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/09/19

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

Vote: 7-2-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Helm, Salinas, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde, Williams, Zika

Nays: 2 - Findley, Reschke

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 4/4, 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$983,919 to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 to fund laboratory services for public water systems that are susceptible to hazardous algal blooms. Appropriates an unspecified amount to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 to hire a recreational hazardous algal bloom coordinator. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2109.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 2018 City of Salem drinking water advisory resulting from harmful algal blooms in Detroit Lake
- Health impacts on humans and animals
- Impact on drinking water and recreational water
- Existing program for harmful coastal algal blooms and impacts on shellfish
- Funding for OHA and DEQ for laboratory testing, monitoring, and response to harmful algal blooms

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Harmful algal blooms are high concentrations of certain types of algae that produce toxic compounds. These blooms can cause sickness and death in humans, pets, and livestock who come into contact with or drink the water. Blooms can also result in hypoxia, or low oxygen, in water bodies, which can kill fish and other wildlife. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is the agency responsible for posting warnings and educating the public about harmful algal blooms. Once a harmful algal bloom has been identified in a body of water, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for investigating its cause, identifying sources of pollution, and writing a pollution reduction plan.

House Bill 3326 A appropriates \$983,919 to DEQ to fund laboratory services for susceptible public water systems, and an unspecified amount to OHA to hire a recreational harmful algal bloom coordinator.