

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: HB 4071 - 1**

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Directs Department of Environmental Quality to purchase cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system and associated supplies and services.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

**Analysis:**

HB 4071 - 1 directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create positions and purchase equipment to improve water quality.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the estimated fiscal impact to the agencies do not align with the General Fund appropriations provided in the bill. While the measure provides one-time General Fund intended to fund positions and equipment, this fiscal includes both the 2019-21 program costs and the estimated cost of continuing this program through the end of the 2021-23 biennium. It is unclear from the text of the bill if the positions included in this measure are intended to be permanent or temporary.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ is directed to purchase a cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system and to create at least one seasonal position to collect water samples and assist with cyanotoxin analysis during peak periods. This measure appropriates \$95,000 General Fund to DEQ for the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system and \$215,000 General Fund for staff in 2019-21. The total estimated fiscal impact for the agency in 2019-21 is \$240,548 General Fund, which does not match the appropriation provided in the bill.

The peak period for harmful algal blooms is March through October. DEQ would hire a seasonal full-time Natural Resources Specialist 1 (NRS 1, 0.33 FTE in 2019-21 and 0.50 FTE in 2021-23) and a seasonal full-time Chemist 2 (0.25 FTE in 2019-21 and 0.42 FTE in 2021-23) to work during these peak times. The NRS 1 would increase the number of samples collected from waterbodies across the state, to include waterbodies with high rates of use for recreation during summer months. The Chemist would increase capacity to test samples during peak periods.

Personal Services costs for these positions are estimated at \$91,113 in the 2019-21 biennium and \$142,932 in 2021-23. Services and Supplies costs for these positions are estimated at \$54,435 in 2019-21 and \$85,068 in 2021-23; this figure includes travel and equipment costs that are unique to laboratory positions.

Services and Supplies costs related to the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system include approximately \$30,000 to purchase the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer, and \$65,000 for operation of the system, totaling \$95,000 in the 2019-21 biennium. In 2021-23, costs of operating the cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system are estimated at \$140,000. Operation of the agency's existing autoanalyzer for the 2019 calendar year was \$68,000. Operation costs are largely related to plates that are used for testing samples, which cost upwards of \$350 each.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

OHA is directed to create a small utility outreach coordinator position who will reach out to certain water suppliers to ensure they have the training needed to respond to water-related emergencies. This measure appropriates \$100,000 General Fund to OHA for staffing costs. The total estimated fiscal impact for the agency in 2019-21 is \$154,114 General Fund, which does not match the appropriation provided in the bill.

OHA anticipates that the small utility outreach coordinator position would be filled by a permanent, full-time Natural Resources Specialist 4 in the Drinking Water Program (0.63 FTE in 2019-21, 1.00 FTE in 2021-23). OHA estimates that this position would cost \$154,114 General Fund in 2019-21 and \$240,274 General Fund in 2021-23, including costs for Services and Supplies. These figures assume that the position is hired in April 2020, as the bill declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

This measure has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.