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SUMMARY

Creates Interagency Water Officer in office of Governor.
Establishes Strategic Water Management Council. Describes duties of council.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to interagency water resources coordination.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) There is created within the office of the Governor the position of Interagency Water Officer. The Governor shall appoint an individual to serve as Interagency Water Officer.

(2) The Interagency Water Officer shall:

(a) Act as the lead interagency coordinator for high priority policies, plans and projects that affect the water resources of this state and require agency coordination.

(b) Serve as the chairperson of the Strategic Water Management Council.

(c) Oversee efforts to improve interagency coordination of water resources related data, policies, plans, budgets, funding opportunities and permitting processes.

(d) Coordinate tribal consultation on interagency activities affecting the water resources of this state.

(3) The Interagency Water Officer may act as the lead negotiator and coordinator with the federal government and other state governments on matters related to water resources.

1 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is established the Strategic Water Manage-
2 ment Council. The Strategic Water Management Council consists of
3 the following members:

4 (a) The Interagency Water Officer;

5 (b) The Water Resources Director;

6 (c) The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality;

7 (d) The executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement
8 Board;

9 (e) The Director of the Oregon Health Authority;

10 (f) The State Fish and Wildlife Director;

11 (g) The Director of Agriculture;

12 (h) The Director of the State Department of Energy;

13 (i) The Director of the Department of Land Conservation and De-
14 velopment;

15 (j) The Director of the Department of State Lands;

16 (k) The State Forester;

17 (L) The State Geologist;

18 (m) The Director of the Oregon Business Development Department;

19 (n) The State Parks and Recreation Director; and

20 (o) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Depart-
21 ment.

22 (2) A designee of an official described in subsection (1) of this sec-
23 tion may serve as a member of the council in place of the official.

24 (3) The Interagency Water Officer shall be the chairperson of the
25 council and the Water Resources Director shall be the vice chair-
26 person.

27 (4) The council shall adopt rules necessary for the operation of the
28 council.

29 (5) The office of the Governor shall provide staff support to the
30 council.

31 (6) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are

1 directed to assist the council in the performance of the duties of the
2 council and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to
3 confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the
4 council consider necessary to perform their duties.

5 **SECTION 3. (1) The Strategic Water Management Council estab-**
6 **lished under section 2 of this 2023 Act shall:**

7 (a) Develop, on a biennial basis, an interagency work plan to iden-
8 tify water resources related priorities, direct existing state resources
9 across agencies to those priorities and identify additional investments
10 needed to implement the priorities.

11 (b) Coordinate the water resources related portions of each agency's
12 biennial budget.

13 (c) Support the development and implementation of a coordinated
14 statewide water investment strategy as a part of the integrated state
15 water resources strategy described in ORS 536.220.

16 (d) Develop metrics related to the water resources of this state and
17 compile data based on those metrics.

18 (e) Conduct, on a biennial basis, interagency presentations, listen-
19 ing sessions and other coordinated public participation opportunities
20 in communities across this state to report progress on council priori-
21 ties and receive information to inform the biennial work plan and
22 funding decisions related to water resources.

23 (f) Develop, on a biennial basis, a work plan to identify interagency
24 priorities and needed investments and to direct funding of water re-
25 sources related projects or programs.

26 (g) Conduct tribal consultation on interagency activities affecting
27 the water resources of this state.

28 (2) The council may:

29 (a) Coordinate agency activities that will benefit from increased
30 integration and coordination across agencies, including but not limited
31 to water resources related data, policies, plans, funding opportunities

1 and permitting processes.

2 (b) Coordinate interagency responses to problems affecting the wa-
3 ter resources of this state.

4 (3) In carrying out the duties and functions described in subsections
5 (1) and (2) of this section, the council shall:

6 (a) Take actions that are consistent with, and seek to advance, the
7 integrated state water resources strategy described in ORS 536.220; and

8 (b) Find opportunities to partner with federal agencies and encour-
9 age federal agency actions that are consistent with the integrated
10 state water resources strategy described in ORS 536.220.

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