

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Directs Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with Water Resources Department, to study expanding water reuse in state.
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to expanding water reuse; and prescribing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Water Resources Department and other relevant state agencies and interested parties, shall study barriers to, and opportunities and needed investments for, expanding water reuse or recycled water programs and projects within this state.

(2) In carrying out the study under this section, the Department of Environmental Quality shall:

(a) Identify and characterize recycled water project types that are priorities to support water quality, water supply or use and habitat or ecosystem needs in this state;

(b) Identify regulatory and other impediments to expanding water reuse;

(c) Identify specific regulatory changes, including but not limited to internal guidance, administrative rules or statutes needed to remove impediments and develop an implementation plan for enacting proposed changes;

(d) Evaluate solutions and approaches successfully employed by

1 other states with robust recycled water programs; and

2 (e) Develop technical assistance guidance, or other resources, for
3 local jurisdictions and industries to seek permitting and development
4 of recycled water programs.

5 (3) The department shall submit a progress report on the study
6 conducted under this section in the manner provided by ORS 192.245,
7 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to water
8 no later than December 31, 2023.

9 (4) The department shall submit a final report on the study con-
10 ducted under this section in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, to
11 the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to water
12 no later than September 15, 2024. The department shall, at a minimum,
13 identify in the report under this subsection:

14 (a) Changes that agencies can make to internal policies, guidance,
15 and processes;

16 (b) Changes that require an agency to amend an administrative rule
17 or adopt new administrative rules;

18 (c) Changes that would require the Legislative Assembly to create
19 new law or amend existing law;

20 (d) Programmatic needs to remove impediments to water reuse ex-
21 pansion and support access to and acceleration of water reuse projects;
22 and

23 (e) Incentives that would support jurisdictions in evaluating and
24 pursuing reuse projects.

25 SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
26 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
27 Quality, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General
28 Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended for the purpose
29 of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

30 SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
31 ation, there is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for

1 the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the
2 amount of \$_____, which may be expended for the purpose of carrying
3 out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

4 SECTION 4. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

5 SECTION 5. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date
6 on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative
7 Assembly adjourns sine die.

8 _____