

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3242

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Tim Walker
Reviewed by: Matt Stayner, John Terpening
Date: 03/30/2021**Measure Description:**

Directs Water Resources Department to undertake certain activities related to studying and monitoring ground water.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Resources Department (WRD), Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$250,000	
Total Funds	\$250,000	\$0
Positions	1	
FTE	0.88	

Analysis: The measure directs the Water Resources Department (WRD) to summarize the current groundwater information available for each groundwater basin in the state and identify basin specific groundwater issues. The measure also requires the WRD to develop recommendations for groundwater study prioritization, and methods for regularly reporting statewide consumptive ground water use, historical use of ground water to irrigate fields, and estimates of open water evaporation from all major reservoirs and directs the WRD to identify a comprehensive groundwater level monitoring network, and directs the WRD to develop a report to the legislature on the costs and timing of developing specified groundwater data and studies, and on how to prioritize water management in basins. The bill appropriates \$250,000 to the WRD to implement these directives.

WRD would need one Natural Resource Specialist 4 (0.88 FTE) (Hydrogeologist) to identify groundwater issues for each basin and develop recommendation and identifying groundwater level monitoring network. In addition, this position would summarize and analyze existing data on prioritizing water management in various basins. WRD would work with the United States Geological Survey to develop the report. WRD would use a portion of the appropriation to have the report peer reviewed.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that although the measure creates a new ongoing program, the measure provides a onetime appropriation for the 2021-23 biennium. LFO assumes that funding for this program for 2023-25 and future biennium will be addressed through the biennial budgeting process for the agency.

The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries do not anticipate having a fiscal impact due to the provisions of this measure.