

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3089 - 1

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Michelle Deister
Date: April 12, 2021**Measure Description:**

Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD)

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
Total General Fund	\$15,000,000	
Other Funds		
Personal Services	479,525	574,890
Services and Supplies	47,295	45,960
Special Payments	11,000,000	2,852,330
Total Other Funds	\$11,526,820	\$3,473,180
Positions	3	3
FTE	2.50	2.00

Analysis:

HB 3089 with the -1 amendment appropriates \$15,000,000 to the Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD) for deposit in the Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund to provide grants to qualified organizations to distribute water and sewer bill payment assistance to low-income residential households.

HCSD estimates the administrative and operational costs for the Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance program to be \$526,820 for the 2021-23 biennium and \$620,850 for the 2023-25 biennium. This estimate reflects the personal services and related services and supplies costs for three permanent full-time positions (one Program Analyst 4 position, one Program Analyst 3 position, and one Accountant 3 position) to oversee the program, including developing rules, coordinating competitive solicitations, reviewing applications, managing grant awards, assisting grantees with program execution, ensuring program compliance, as well as providing technical, accounting, and fiscal support. The positions are assumed to be permanent because recruiting for permanent positions allows HCSD to access a larger applicant pool and retain staff through the duration of the program. In addition, HCSD anticipates administering a new Low-Income Water Assistance Program on behalf of US Treasury. Although, HCSD has not received federal guidance on this program, including the funding level, the agency would work to align programs for administrative efficiencies. Staff costs for the state Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance program may be covered by the federal program in the future.

This measure is referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference.