

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Natural Resources Subcommittee

From: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 15, 2021

Subject: HB 2018 – Relating to assessment of ground water resources
Work Session Recommendations

HB 2018 directs the Water Resources Department (WRD) to enter into a cost-matching agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop and publish ground water budgets for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon. WRD is also directed to expand the ground water level monitoring network; to produce reports that quantify ground water recharge for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon; produce maps and datasets that quantify open water evaporation from all major reservoirs in Oregon; collect and process data regarding baseline ground water levels and use; and assess the time and cost to conduct ground water basin studies.

The Water Resources Department estimates that the 2021-23 biennium costs to perform these tasks will be \$2,386,808 and will require the establishment of nine new positions. The -A2 amendment provides a General Fund appropriation to enable the agency to complete this work.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the -A2 amendment.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2018, as amended by the -A2 amendment, to be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____