

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3093 - A

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: April 6, 2021

Measure Description:

Directs Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority to collaborate on strategies to respond to harmful algal blooms.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Water Resources Department (WRD)

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
Oregon Health Authority - General Fund	\$260,189	\$260,189
Department of Environmental Quality - General Fund	232,645	265,884
Total Funds	\$492,834	\$526,073
Positions	2	2
FTE	1.75	2.00

Analysis:

HB 3093 - A directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), to develop and implement a strategy to monitor and respond to harmful algal blooms (HABs) in freshwater. This includes creating communication strategies and roles and responsibilities for entities involved in water quality, such as state, local and federal or tribal government agencies; development of protocols to issue public health alerts to the public and stakeholders affected by HABs; and development of a web-based portal to allow users to access information and data related to HABs.

DEQ and OHA must create and implement a monitoring program, primarily for water bodies that are used for drinking water, recreation, or agriculture. DEQ will collect and analyze water quality samples and other data, and use this information to prioritize mitigation strategies for HABs; DEQ must also develop watershed management plans or other management strategies to reduce HABs. OHA is directed to establish a technical advisory committee to advise and review progress by OHA and DEQ on implementation of the HAB monitoring and response strategy, and to provide recommendations on areas where further resources or evaluation are needed to monitor or respond to HABs. The committee must meet at least annually.

The measure appropriates \$232,645 General Fund for DEQ to create a position to analyze water quality samples and satellite information, and develop HAB management strategies. The measure appropriates \$260,189 General Fund to OHA to create a position to coordinate HAB monitoring and response activities, and provide outreach and technical assistance tools to stakeholders.

Department of Environmental Quality

Under this measure, DEQ would hire a full-time, permanent Natural Resources Specialist 3 (0.88 FTE in 2021-23, 1.00 FTE in 2023-25) to analyze data and develop HAB management strategies. The total cost of this position is estimated at \$232,645 General Fund in 2021-23 and \$280,884 General Fund in 2023-25. In 2021-23, this includes \$164,428 for Personal Services and \$68,217 for position-related Services and Supplies; and \$187,920 for Personal Services and \$92,964 for position-related Services and Supplies costs in 2023-25.

Oregon Health Authority

OHA will need one Natural Resource Specialist 4 position (0.88 FTE in 2021-23, 1.00 FTE in 2023-25) to develop and coordinate the required HAB monitoring and response activities with DEQ. The total cost of this position is estimated at \$229,117 General Fund in 2021-23; this includes \$191,001 for Personal Services and \$38,116 for Services and Supplies. In 2023-25, total costs are estimated at \$260,189 General Fund with \$218,289 for Personal Services and \$41,900 for position-related Services and Supplies.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that costs in 2021-23 are less than the appropriation provided by the measure; and that costs in 2023-25 may be higher than the amounts included here as these figures do not include inflation.

Shared agency responsibilities

Both agencies assume that information already available on DEQ and OHA websites will fill the requirement for a “web-based portal” with HAB information. OHA currently hosts a website that tracks current and past advisories and information about HABs, while DEQ has online database of water quality data which OHA can provide links to.

Other state agencies

There is no or minimal fiscal impact anticipated for the Water Resources Department, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Forestry.