

SB 745 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 03/31/21
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski
Nays: 1 - Heard
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/29, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides alternative criteria for a domestic water supply district to exercise the powers of a sanitary district. Proactively maintains current requirements that a district obtain all or part of its water supply from a watershed, that the watershed is recognized under Environmental Quality Commission rules as a watershed requiring protection from contamination, and that the district adopts a resolution requiring protection of watershed water quality for the health of district residents and the general public. Eliminates existing requirement that the watershed is located in a sole-source aquifer designated prior to 1991 under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and adds requirements that the district is located adjacent to a river that serves as a drinking water source for a metropolitan area with a population greater than 100,000 and that any part of the district is covered by the major disaster declaration related to wildfires requested by the Governor and approved by the U.S. President in September 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sewer district establishment integral to successful rebuilding of Blue River, Oregon
- History of Blue River's efforts to develop a centralized wastewater system
- Inability of Blue River to meet one statutory criterion and "rooftop" rule
- Past and current failing septic system impact on McKenzie River water quality
- Governance framework would allow Blue River to plan for a future system, and to gain access to funding opportunities for that system
- Application to communities in other jurisdictions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Domestic water supply districts can currently operate as sanitary districts provided that four criteria are met: the district obtains all or part of its water supply from a watershed; the watershed is located in a sole-source aquifer designated prior to 1991 under the Safe Drinking Water Act; the watershed is recognized under Environmental Quality Commission rules as a watershed requiring protection from contamination; and the district adopts a resolution requiring protection of watershed water quality for the health of district residents and the general public.

Senate Bill 745 would provide alternative criteria for a domestic water supply district to exercise the powers of a sanitary district, provided it is located in an area covered by a major disaster declaration related to the September 2020 wildfires.