

House Bill 2170

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Office of the Governor)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes provider of water project support to make support available to local organizations and local governments for purpose of developing local community engagement plans for water projects. Requires provider to give priority to water project support for local organizations and local governments that use information, plans, goals and best practices to ensure that disproportionately affected communities, Indian tribes and persons representative of community demographics are properly included in water project decision-making. Allows provider to condition water project support on local organization or local government use of provider-recognized best practices related to equitable participation in water project decision-making process.

Requires provider of water project support to periodically coordinate with other providers to update and ensure uniform application of best practices.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to water project community engagement.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Disproportionately impacted communities" means rural communities, communities**
6 **having a high proportion of households of lower income and communities having a high**
7 **proportion of racial or ethnic minorities.**

8 (b) **"Local government" has the meaning given that term in ORS 174.116.**

9 (c) **"Water project support" means technical assistance or financial support related to**
10 **watershed enhancement, uses under in-stream water rights, water resource development,**
11 **water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal projects that is provided to a local or-**
12 **ganization or local government by:**

13 (A) **The Department of Environmental Quality;**

14 (B) **The Oregon Business Development Department;**

15 (C) **The Oregon Health Authority;**

16 (D) **The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; or**

17 (E) **The Water Resources Department.**

18 (2) **A provider of water project support:**

19 (a) **May make water project support available for the purpose of enabling local organiza-**
20 **tions and local governments to develop community engagement plans related to a water**
21 **project.**

22 (b) **Shall give priority to water project support for local organizations and local govern-**
23 **ments that identify local demographics and develop goals and approaches for increased rep-**
24 **resentation of local disproportionately impacted communities in decisions related to water**
25 **projects.**

26 (c) **Shall give priority to water project support for local organizations and local govern-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **ments that implement and maintain equity plans that are based on best practices recognized**
2 **by the provider under subsection (4) of this section.**

3 **(3) A provider of water project support may condition provision of the support on the**
4 **local organization or local government:**

5 **(a) Identifying local demographics through the use of established systems; and**

6 **(b) Using best practices recognized by the provider under subsection (4) of this section**
7 **to develop a plan for water project decision-making that:**

8 **(A) Invites broad community representation that reflects the community demographics;**

9 **(B) Considers traditional Indian tribe interests in the areas of water projects or proposed**
10 **water projects, regardless of whether tribal members are represented in the community de-**
11 **mographics;**

12 **(C) Establishes specific goals for equitable participation and water project decision-**
13 **making and identifies specific realistic and achievable approaches for use in meeting those**
14 **goals; and**

15 **(D) Provides for periodic reporting on the attempted or successful achievement of best**
16 **practices in the decision-making process.**

17 **(4) Each provider of water project support shall adopt rules recognizing best practices for**
18 **use by the provider, local organizations and local governments to ensure that water project**
19 **and water project support activities are carried out in the manner described in this section.**
20 **Providers of water project support shall periodically coordinate with each other to ensure**
21 **that best practices recognized by the providers are updated as necessary and are adminis-**
22 **tered and used by the providers in a consistent manner. The Water Resources Department**
23 **shall oversee the coordination process. The department shall ensure that the coordination**
24 **process occurs at least once every five years.**

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