

# House Bill 2241

Sponsored by Representative WILDE (Presession filed.)

## 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**.

Requires Department of Environmental Quality to approve at least three businesses to provide water quality permit application review services. Requires department to approve or disapprove water quality permit application with report from review service provider within 30 days.

Requires department to report water quality permit wait times to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment no later than September 15 of each year.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to water quality; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality shall approve at least three**  
5 **businesses to provide the services described in subsection (2) of this section. The businesses**  
6 **approved under this subsection must be experienced in laws and practices relating to water**  
7 **pollution and be capable of providing services to a sufficient number of applicants, as deter-**  
8 **mined by the department. The department shall make a list of approved services available**  
9 **on the department's website.**

10 **(2) A business approved by the department under subsection (1) of this section shall offer**  
11 **the following services to applicants for a permit under ORS 468B.050:**

12 **(a) Review the permit application;**

13 **(b) Prepare a report to the department based on the standards established by the de-**  
14 **partment under subsection (3) of this section; and**

15 **(c) Transmit the application and report to the department.**

16 **(3) The department shall establish standards for the preparation and transmittal to the**  
17 **department of a report under subsection (2) of this section. The standards must require that**  
18 **the person that prepares the report applies the same criteria as an employee of the depart-**  
19 **ment for determining whether the applicant has met the requirements for a permit under**  
20 **ORS 468B.050.**

21 **(4) If the department receives an application for a permit under ORS 468B.050 and report**  
22 **as described in subsection (2) of this section, the department must approve or disapprove the**  
23 **application within 30 days of receiving the application and report. If the department fails to**  
24 **act within the time allowed, the application shall be considered approved unless an extension**  
25 **of time is granted by the Environmental Quality Commission on a showing of good cause by**  
26 **the department.**

27 **SECTION 2. No later than September 15 of each year, the Department of Environmental**  
28 **Quality shall submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related**  
29 **to the environment in the manner provided under ORS 192.245. The report must quantify**

**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 wait times for the approval or disapproval of applications for permits under ORS 468B.050  
2 and compare the wait times between permit applications reviewed by a business approved  
3 under section 1 of this 2021 Act and permit applications solely reviewed by the department.

4 SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
5 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect  
6 on its passage.

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