

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2251

By COMMITTEE ON WATER

April 15

1 In line 2 of the printed bill, delete “prescribing an effective date” and insert “declaring an
2 emergency”.

3 Delete lines 4 through 11 and insert:

4 **“SECTION 1. The Water Resources Department shall provide staff support to work
5 through complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in priority water
6 basins, including but not limited to the Deschutes River and Willamette River basins and
7 other water basins determined by the department.**

8 **“SECTION 2. To develop short-term and long-term mitigation commitments that imple-
9 ment agreements developed through the Columbia River-Umatilla Solutions Task Force
10 Declaration of Cooperation signed in 2012, the office of the Governor shall work with the
11 Regional Solutions Program to convene and support a bi-state task force that includes, at
12 minimum, the office of the Governor, state representatives from Oregon and Washington,
13 affected federal agencies, affected state agencies, local governments, federally recognized
14 Indian tribes, academic institutions and a balanced representation of water stakeholders,
15 such as water users and conservation organizations.**

16 **“SECTION 3. (1) The chair of the Water Resources Commission, or a designee of the
17 chair, and two members of the House Committee on Water designated by the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives shall co-convene a Regional Water Planning and Management Task
19 Force that is charged with developing an agreed-upon framework and path forward for
20 state-supported water planning and management at the level of the water region or basin.**

21 **“(2) In consultation with a neutral facilitation team, the co-conveners shall:**

22 **“(a) Determine, and state in a charter, the composition, purpose and decision-making
23 processes of the task force. The task force must include, at minimum, legislators, state
24 agencies related to water, federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments and other
25 members that represent a balance of interests, both in-stream and out-of-stream, and a
26 balance of water region and basin interests.**

27 **“(b) Appoint members of the task force.**

28 **“(3) To manage task force processes, the task force shall use a neutral facilitator pro-
29 vided by the Oregon Consensus program of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at
30 Portland State University. The processes must be designed to build on and integrate with the
31 state integrated water resources strategy and the 100-year water investment vision.**

32 **“(4) In developing the agreed-upon framework and path forward, the task force must
33 examine:**

34 **“(a) The structure and approach of state-supported regional water planning and imple-
35 mentation in other states;**

1 “(b) The data and information, capacity and investments that are needed to support re-
2 gional water planning and implementation;

3 “(c) The readiness of water basins and agencies related to water to support regional wa-
4 ter planning and management with existing resources and whether additional resources are
5 needed;

6 “(d) Any potential barriers and existing opportunities for pursuing regional approaches
7 to water planning and management;

8 “(e) Existing water laws and policies that support regional approaches to water planning
9 and management;

10 “(f) The status, assets and needs of each water basin in this state; and

11 “(g) Any lessons learned and recommendations resulting from existing efforts to imple-
12 ment regional water planning and management.

13 “(5) The task force shall periodically report to the House Committee on Water on the
14 progress and recommendations of the task force.

15 “(6) On or before September 15, 2022, the task force shall submit to the commission and
16 the House Committee on Water a report that includes recommendations regarding:

17 “(a) The foundational technical information that is needed to support regional water
18 planning and management, both in-stream and out-of-stream;

19 “(b) An agreed-upon structure and approach for state-supported regional water planning
20 and management designed to be responsive to and meet both in-stream and out-of-stream
21 needs, as well as a path forward for implementation;

22 “(c) Any potential modifications to existing laws or rules that are needed to clarify the
23 agreed-upon structure, approach and support for state-supported regional water planning and
24 management; and

25 “(d) Near-term funding requests and long-term funding strategies to support regional
26 water planning and management, including funding for regions and funding for positions at
27 state agencies to provide support and assistance related to regional water planning and
28 management.

29 “(7) The Water Resources Department and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
30 shall provide staff support to the task force.

31 “(8) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
32 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
33 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the task force considers
34 necessary to perform task force duties.

35 “SECTION 4. (1) The Water Resources Department shall award grants to federally re-
36 cognized Indian tribes in this state and county governments that are interested in convening
37 community water forums with local partners in the private and nonprofit sectors.

38 “(2) The funded tribes and county governments may decide to pool resources and organ-
39 ize around shared hydrologic boundaries.

40 “(3) The purpose of community water forums is to encourage stakeholders representing
41 diverse water interests to:

42 “(a) Identify water needs by engaging all stakeholders;

43 “(b) Listen to and learn from one another regarding in-stream and out-of-stream water
44 needs and challenges of different water interests, including water quantity, water quality,
45 watershed health, built infrastructure, water use, conservation opportunities and vulner-

1 abilities and data gaps;

2 “(c) Build trust and relationships around shared water interests;

3 “(d) Determine what work has been done at the local level to support implementation of
4 actions recommended in the 2017 state integrated water resources strategy and what support
5 is needed to continue to make progress;

6 “(e) Provide input to the 2022 update of the state integrated water resources strategy and
7 the 100-year water investment vision;

8 “(f) Identify technical information or assistance needed to support future planning and
9 action, which may inform the reports described in section 3 of this 2021 Act;

10 “(g) Inform the proceedings of the Regional Water Planning and Management Task
11 Force; and

12 “(h) Generally build awareness of and support for increased water-related investments.

13 “(4) The community water forums must:

14 “(a) Be conducted in an impartial way;

15 “(b) Have a consistent process to allow for all communities to have the opportunity to
16 contribute to the conversation in a similar fashion and combine recommendations that have
17 statewide applicability and allow for the identification of similar themes across this state;
18 and

19 “(c) Be advertised and open to all interested stakeholders.

20 “(5) Persons who convene the community water forums must identify and invite to the
21 forums a balanced representation of interests, including both in-stream and out-of-stream
22 interests.

23 “(6) The forums must result in a description of the status, assets and needs of areas
24 without any associated ranking or priority.

25 “(7) In coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Watershed
26 Enhancement Board, State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Fish and
27 Wildlife and Water Resources Department, the Association of Oregon Counties shall provide
28 staff support related to community water forums to assist with consistent design format,
29 technical issues and organizing.

30 “**SECTION 5.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
31 priated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of
32 the General Fund, the amounts of:

33 “(1) \$450,000 for carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2021 Act.

34 “(2) \$600,000 for purposes related to the Regional Water Planning and Management Task
35 Force described in section 3 of this 2021 Act.

36 “(3) \$550,000 for awarding grants described in section 4 of this 2021 Act.

37 “(4) \$150,000 for distribution to the Association of Oregon Counties for purposes related
38 to carrying out the provisions of section 4 of this 2021 Act.

39 “**SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
40 priated to the office of the Governor, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the
41 General Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for distribution to the Regional Solutions Program for
42 carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2021 Act.

43 “**SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
44 priated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning
45 July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$200,000 for distribution to the Oregon

1 **Consensus program of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government of Portland State Uni-**
2 **versity, for purposes related to the Regional Water Planning and Management Task Force**
3 **described in section 3 of this 2021 Act.**

4 **“SECTION 8. Sections 1 to 4 of this 2021 Act are repealed on June 30, 2023.**

5 **“SECTION 9. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
6 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
7 **on its passage.”.**

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