

House Bill 2257

Sponsored by Representative OWENS (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**.

Appropriates moneys to Water Resources Department for purposes of facilitating enrollment of lands in Harney Basin in federal Conservation Reserve Program, funding hydrologist position and measuring ground water levels in Harney Basin.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to voluntary reduction of ground water use; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. There is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for the purposes of:

(1) Facilitating enrollment of lands in the Harney Basin in the voluntary, primarily federally funded Conservation Reserve Program;

(2) Funding a position for a hydrologist who will:

(a) Support implementation of contracts entered into under the Conservation Reserve Program, including by assessing the water rights of individuals interested in participating in the program, to ensure eligibility;

(b) Assist with implementation of other projects intended to reduce ground water use in the Harney Basin;

(c) To assess the effectiveness of participation in the Conservation Reserve Program and of other strategies for reducing ground water use, monitor and estimate ground water use in the Harney Basin and collect data on ground water levels in the Harney Basin; and

(d) Support actions taken by the watermaster of District 10 that promote compliance with voluntary and mandated ground water use reduction programs; and

(3) Measuring ground water levels in the Harney Basin to assess whether ground water management programs are reducing the decline of ground water levels in the basin.

SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.

24

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.