House Bill 3242

Sponsored by Representative OWENS

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.

Directs Water Resources Department to undertake certain activities related to studying and monitoring ground water. Directs department to report to committee of Eighty-second Legislative Assembly related to water.

Appropriates moneys to department out of General Fund for activities related to studying and monitoring ground water.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the assessment of ground water resources; and declaring an emergency.

SECTION 1. The Water Resources Department shall:

(1) In cooperation with the United States Geological Survey, the ground water advisory committee and other interested parties, develop and publish a report that:

(a) Identifies each ground water basin in this state; and

(b) For each ground water basin in this state, summarizes the known status of subsurface geology, ground water reservoirs, ground water levels, ground water budgets, consumptive ground water use, ground water-dependent ecosystems and other information that affects the management of ground water resources.

(2) Identify ground water use issues associated with each ground water basin.

(3) Develop recommendations for:

(a) How to determine which ground water basins most need detailed ground water studies and management; and

(b) Methods to regularly report to the Legislative Assembly on statewide consumptive ground water use, historical use of ground water to irrigate fields and estimates of water evaporation, since 1984, from all major reservoirs in this state.

(4) Identify a comprehensive network for monitoring ground water levels that will improve estimates of ground water use.

(5) Report to a committee of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly related to water, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, on the department's:

(a) Estimated costs and timing of providing regular basin reports on ground water recharge, consumptive ground water use, evapotranspiration, ground water levels and trends, the status of ground water-dependent ecosystems and methods for monitoring ground water use;

(b) Estimated costs and timing of conducting ground water basin studies; and

(c) Recommendations for how to prioritize water management in the major hydrological basins in this state.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter in italic and bracketed is existing law to be omitted.

New sections are in boldfaced type.

LC 3240
SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of $250,000 for the purposes described in section 1 of this 2021 Act.

SECTION 3. 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.