

Requested by Representative OWENS

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 2251**

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

3 Delete lines 4 through 11 and insert:

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

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

20 **“SECTION 3. (1) The chair of the Water Resources Commission, or
21 a designee of the chair, and two members of the House Committee on**

1 **Water designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall**
2 **co-convene a Regional Water Planning and Management Task Force**
3 **that is charged with developing an agreed-upon framework and path**
4 **forward for state-supported water planning and management at the**
5 **level of the water region or basin.**

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

8 **“(a) Determine, and state in a charter, the composition, purpose**
9 **and decision-making processes of the task force. The task force must**
10 **include, at minimum, legislators, state agencies related to water,**
11 **federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments and other mem-**
12 **bers that represent a balance of interests, both in-stream and out-of-**
13 **stream, and a balance of water region and basin interests.**

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

15 **“(3) To manage task force processes, the task force shall use a**
16 **neutral facilitator provided by the Oregon Consensus program of the**
17 **Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University.**
18 **The processes must be designed to build on and integrate with the**
19 **state integrated water resources strategy and the 100-year water in-**
20 **vestment vision.**

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

23 **“(a) The structure and approach of state-supported regional water**
24 **planning and implementation in other states;**

25 **“(b) The data and information, capacity and investments that are**
26 **needed to support regional water planning and implementation;**

27 **“(c) The readiness of water basins and agencies related to water to**
28 **support regional water planning and management with existing re-**
29 **sources and whether additional resources are needed;**

30 **“(d) Any potential barriers and existing opportunities for pursuing**

1 regional approaches to water planning and management;

2 “(e) Existing water laws and policies that support regional ap-
3 proaches to water planning and management;

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

6 “(g) Any lessons learned and recommendations resulting from ex-
7 isting efforts to implement regional water planning and management.

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

10 “(6) On or before September 15, 2022, the task force shall submit to
11 the commission and the House Committee on Water a report that in-
12 cludes recommendations regarding:

13 “(a) The foundational technical information that is needed to sup-
14 port regional water planning and management, both in-stream and
15 out-of-stream;

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

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

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

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

30 “(8) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are

1 directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the
2 task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to
3 confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the task force con-
4 siders necessary to perform task force duties.

5 **“SECTION 4. (1) The Water Resources Department shall award**
6 **grants to federally recognized Indian tribes in this state and county**
7 **governments that are interested in convening community water fo-**
8 **rum with local partners in the private and nonprofit sectors.**

9 **“(2) The funded tribes and county governments may decide to pool**
10 **resources and organize around shared hydrologic boundaries.**

11 **“(3) The purpose of community water forums is to encourage**
12 **stakeholders representing diverse water interests to:**

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

14 **“(b) Listen to and learn from one another regarding in-stream and**
15 **out-of-stream water needs and challenges of different water interests,**
16 **including water quantity, water quality, watershed health, built**
17 **infrastructure, water use, conservation opportunities and vulnerabili-**
18 **ties and data gaps;**

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

20 **“(d) Determine what work has been done at the local level to sup-**
21 **port implementation of actions recommended in the 2017 state inte-**
22 **grated water resources strategy and what support is needed to**
23 **continue to make progress;**

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

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

29 **“(g) Inform the proceedings of the Regional Water Planning and**
30 **Management Task Force; and**

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

3 **“(4) The community water forums must:**

4 **“(a) Be conducted in an impartial way;**

5 **“(b) Have a consistent process to allow for all communities to have**
6 **the opportunity to contribute to the conversation in a similar fashion**
7 **and combine recommendations that have statewide applicability and**
8 **allow for the identification of similar themes across this state; and**

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

10 **“(5) Persons who convene the community water forums must iden-**
11 **tify and invite to the forums a balanced representation of interests,**
12 **including both in-stream and out-of-stream interests.**

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

15 **“(7) In coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality,**
16 **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, State Department of Agri-**
17 **culture, State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Water Resources**
18 **Department, the Association of Oregon Counties shall provide staff**
19 **support related to community water forums to assist with consistent**
20 **design format, technical issues and organizing.**

21 **“SECTION 5. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**
22 **ation, there is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for**
23 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the**
24 **amounts of:**

25 **“(1) \$450,000 for carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2021**
26 **Act.**

27 **“(2) \$600,000 for purposes related to the Regional Water Planning**
28 **and Management Task Force described in section 3 of this 2021 Act.**

29 **“(3) \$550,000 for awarding grants described in section 4 of this 2021**
30 **Act.**

1 “(4) \$150,000 for distribution to the Association of Oregon Counties
2 for purposes related to carrying out the provisions of section 4 of this
3 2021 Act.

4 “SECTION 6. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
5 ation, there is appropriated to the office of the Governor, for the
6 biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount
7 of \$500,000 for distribution to the Regional Solutions Program for car-
8 rying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2021 Act.

9 “SECTION 7. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
10 ation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administra-
11 tive Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the
12 General Fund, the amount of \$200,000 for distribution to the Oregon
13 Consensus program of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government of
14 Portland State University, for purposes related to the Regional Water
15 Planning and Management Task Force described in section 3 of this
16 2021 Act.

17 “SECTION 8. Sections 1 to 4 of this 2021 Act are repealed on June
18 30, 2023.

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

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