

**SB 5561 BUDGET REPORT and MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Rayfield

**Joint Committee On The Second Special Session of 2021**

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**Action Date:** 12/13/21

**Action:** Do Pass.

**House Vote**

**Yeas:** 7 - Breese-Iverson, Fahey, Holvey, Pham, Rayfield, Smith G, Wallan

**Senate Vote**

**Yeas:** 7 - Beyer, Findley, Girod, Jama, Knopp, Steiner Hayward, Taylor

**Prepared By:** Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Reviewed By:** Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office

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Emergency Board

2021-23

Various Agencies

2021-23

Long Term Care Ombudsman

2019-21

## Budget Summary

	2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2021 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change from 2021-23 Leg. Adopted	
			\$ Change	% Change
<b><u>Emergency Board</u></b>				
General Fund - Special Purpose Appropriations				
State Response to Natural Disasters	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 51,275,000	\$ (98,725,000)	-65.8%
Dental Rates	\$ 19,000,000	\$ -	\$ (19,000,000)	-100.0%
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM AREA</u></b>				
<b><u>Department of Administrative Services</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 82,279,653	\$ 138,577,653	\$ 56,298,000	68.4%
Federal Funds	\$ 2,628,799,487	\$ 2,743,799,487	\$ 115,000,000	4.4%
<b><u>ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AREA</u></b>				
<b><u>Oregon Business Development Department</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 135,217,061	\$ 145,217,061	\$ 10,000,000	7.4%
<b><u>Housing and Community Services Department</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 432,410,730	\$ 532,410,730	\$ 100,000,000	23.1%
Other Funds	\$ 438,156,031	\$ 553,156,031	\$ 115,000,000	26.2%
<b><u>EDUCATION PROGRAM AREA</u></b>				
<b><u>Department of Education</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 939,890,390	\$ 941,890,390	\$ 2,000,000	0.2%
<b><u>Higher Education Coordinating Commission</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 2,226,708,055	\$ 2,228,458,055	\$ 1,750,000	0.1%
<b><u>HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM AREA</u></b>				
<b><u>Oregon Health Authority</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 3,422,621,751	\$ 3,441,621,751	\$ 19,000,000	0.6%
<b><u>Department of Human Services</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 4,611,865,074	\$ 4,630,103,736	\$ 18,238,662	0.4%

## Budget Summary

	2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2021 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change from 2021-23 Leg. Adopted	
			\$ Change	% Change
<b><u>NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM AREA</u></b>				
<b><u>Department of Agriculture</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 33,818,652	\$ 77,818,652	\$ 44,000,000	130.1%
Lottery Funds	\$ 10,375,039	\$ 11,375,039	\$ 1,000,000	9.6%
Other Funds	\$ 81,365,433	\$ 121,365,433	\$ 40,000,000	49.2%
<b><u>Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 20,420,000	\$ 32,047,000	\$ 11,627,000	56.9%
<b><u>Water Resources Department</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 58,566,215	\$ 67,616,215	\$ 9,050,000	15.5%
Other Funds	\$ 121,883,596	\$ 125,633,596	\$ 3,750,000	3.1%
<b><u>PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM AREA</u></b>				
<b><u>Criminal Justice Commission</u></b>				
General Fund	\$ 89,347,638	\$ 109,347,638	\$ 20,000,000	22.4%
Other Funds	\$ 21,258,537	\$ 41,258,537	\$ 20,000,000	94.1%
<b>2021-23 Budget Summary</b>				
<b>General Fund Total</b>	\$ 12,053,145,219	\$ 12,345,108,881	\$ 174,238,662	2.4%
<b>Lottery Funds Total</b>	\$ 10,375,039	\$ 11,375,039	\$ 1,000,000	9.6%
<b>Other Funds Total</b>	\$ 662,663,597	\$ 841,413,597	\$ 178,750,000	27.0%
<b>Federal Funds Total</b>	\$ 2,628,799,487	\$ 2,743,799,487	\$ 115,000,000	4.4%

Position Summary	2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2021 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change from 2021-23 Leg. Adopted	
			Change	% Change
<b>ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AREA</b>				
<b><u>Housing and Community Services</u></b>				
Authorized Positions	350	364	14	4.0%
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	327.84	336.84	9.00	2.7%
<b>HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM AREA</b>				
<b><u>Department of Human Services</u></b>				
Authorized Positions	10,140	10,144	4	0.0%
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	10,032.41	10,034.07	1.66	0.0%
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM AREA</b>				
<b><u>Department of Agriculture</u></b>				
Authorized Positions	518	533	15	2.9%
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	397.60	406.11	8.51	2.1%
<b><u>Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board</u></b>				
Authorized Positions	36	39	3	8.3%
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	36.00	37.77	1.77	4.9%
<b><u>Water Resources Department</u></b>				
Authorized Positions	209	241	32	15.3%
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	196.81	216.82	20.01	10.2%

2019-21 Budget Adjustment	2019-21 Legislatively Approved Budget	2019-21 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change from 2019-21 Leg. Adopted	
			\$ Change	% Change
<b><u>Long Term Care Ombudsman</u></b>				
General Fund - General Program	\$ 5,708,244	\$ 5,633,096	\$ (75,148)	-1.3%
General Fund - Public Guardian Program	\$ 1,850,150	\$ 1,925,298	\$ 75,148	4.1%

## **Summary of Revenue Changes**

The General Fund appropriations and Lottery Funds expenditure limitation increase made in the bill are within resources available as projected in the December 2021 economic and revenue forecast by the Department of Administrative Services Office of Economic Analysis. Federal Funds revenues of \$115 million are from previously unallocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

## **Summary of Joint Committee on the Second Special Session 2021 Action**

The Joint Committee approved a series of actions in this omnibus budget bill (SB 5561) required to support policy measures advanced in the 2021 Second Special Session and to pay for critical needs primarily tied to natural disaster and pandemic response.

### **Emergency Board**

SB 5561 disappropriates a total of \$117,725,000 General Fund from the Emergency Board. This includes a decrease of \$98,725,000 in the \$150 million special purpose appropriation for the state's natural disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities approved in HB 5006 (2021); these funds are used to pay for efforts and activities related to drought. A \$19 million special purpose appropriation for dental rates (also approved in HB 5006) is fully disappropriated and used to increase payments to dental care providers.

### **Department of Administrative Services**

To support a portion of the housing package, the Joint Committee approved \$115,000,000 Federal Funds expenditure limitation for monies from the ARPA Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund for distribution to the Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD). The package is described under the HCSD narrative section of this budget report.

As part of the drought assistance package, the Joint Committee approved various one-time General Fund appropriations to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to make grants for the following purposes:

- \$5,500,000 for disbursement to the North Unit Irrigation District.
- \$214,000 for disbursement to Ochoco Irrigation District.
- \$48,000 for disbursement to Rogue River Valley Irrigation District.
- \$190,000 for disbursement to Talent Irrigation District.
- \$135,000 for disbursement to Medford Irrigation District.

- \$36,000 for disbursement to Deschutes Basin Board of Control.
- \$400,000 for disbursement to Prairie City to provide domestic and community well assistance.
- \$60,000 for disbursement to the City of Sodaville to provide domestic and community well assistance.
- \$954,800 for disbursement to Jackson County to provide domestic and community well assistance.
- \$585,200 for disbursement to Deschutes County to provide domestic and community well assistance.
- \$4,000,000 for disbursement to the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency for irrigation district assistance.
- \$4,000,000 for disbursement to Klamath County for domestic and community well assistance.
- \$475,000 for disbursement to the Klamath Tribes for aquatic resource inventory and restoration work to determine the impact of wildfire and drought on Sprague River tributaries and Klamath Lake.
- \$1,500,000 for disbursement to the Klamath Tribes for cultural resource inventory and assessment on lands impacted by the Bootleg Fire.
- \$6,600,000 for disbursement to the Klamath Tribes for adaptation to chronic drought and persistent fire conditions, including wildlife management and game enforcement; wildfire restoration, monitoring and risk reduction; and forest management and restoration.
- \$1,100,000 for disbursement to the Klamath Tribes for emergency management staffing and equipment.
- \$10,000,000 for disbursement to the Oregon Worker Relief Coalition for direct payments to agricultural workers who miss work due to extreme heat or smoke.
- \$1,500,000 for disbursement to the Oregon Community Food Systems Network to provide grants to small-scale farmers impacted by drought, heat, or wildfire, who are unable to access federal disaster relief funds and/or the proposed state agriculture disaster response forgivable loan program. By June 30, 2023 the Network will report on the program to the legislative policy committees involved in drought-related issues.

To help fill funding and service gaps, the Committee approved a one-time General Fund distribution of \$1,000,000 each (\$14 million total) to the following cities: Albany, Ashland, Beaverton, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Grants Pass, Gresham, Hillsboro, Medford, Portland, Redmond, Salem, and Springfield. The additional resources will help support programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness over the next few months; the City of Portland will use its \$1 million to work with local partners to establish RV parking sites.

The Joint Committee also approved a one-time \$5,000,000 General Fund appropriation to DAS to disburse to the Port of Portland to help fund the Oregon Mass Timber Modular Housing Prototype project. Funding will be used by a partnership of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition, the Hacienda Community Development Corporation, and the Port of Portland to develop a prototype of modular housing units production to assess the economic, environmental, and efficiency of creating these units at scale to deploy housing throughout Oregon.

### **Oregon Business Development Department**

The Joint Committee approved \$10 million General Fund on a one-time basis to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for distribution to Travel Oregon (Oregon Tourism Commission) for a program to provide COVID-19 and drought or wildfire relief grant funds to Outfitter Guides. The program administered by Travel Oregon is intended to be a temporary program providing direct financial assistance to private, for profit, and nonprofit entities registered with the Oregon State Marine Board as Outfitter Guides. The relief funding opportunity is intended to offset financial losses suffered by Outfitter Guides due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recent drought or wildfire conditions.

Eligible applicants are limited to Oregon domiciled entities registered with the Oregon State Marine Board prior to March 1, 2020 that can attest to financial losses, including but not limited to, declines in gross revenues or income resulting from restrictions imposed due to the COVID 19 pandemic or drought. Specific qualifying financial losses are to be determined by Travel Oregon by rule. Program rules are to be established to ensure that the funding is allocated across the largest number of eligible entities possible, and that preference is given to smaller, more economically vulnerable entities. The program rules may include, but need not be limited to, consideration of total revenues, number of employees, geographic service areas, and access to capital.

Additionally, in developing applications for relief funding, Travel Oregon should include questions related to the receipt by applicants of any other local, state, or federal government COVID-19 relief or drought relief funds. It is intended that the program rules, including the determination or prioritization of needed assistance, allow Travel Oregon to consider any other relief or operational cost assistance due to COVID or drought received by applicants. It is also the intent of the Legislature that, no later than October 1, 2022, Travel Oregon will provide a report to OBDD and the Legislative Fiscal Office on the number, type, and amount of relief awards along with the balance of any unused funding. Any funds not awarded by October 1, 2022 are to be returned to OBDD by Travel Oregon for potential reallocation by the Legislature.

### **Housing and Community Services Department**

The Joint Committee approved a total of \$215,000,000 for the Housing and Community Services Department (HCSO) to provide emergency rental assistance payments through the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP); fund administrative expenses related to processing applications and expediting payments; support local emergency rental assistance programs and eviction prevention and diversion services; research and evaluate eviction diversion programs; and compensate landlords who have delayed termination notices or eviction proceedings, pending determinations on applications for rental assistance. These investments will be funded through a combination of \$115,000,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation from federal ARPA Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the Department of Administrative Services and a \$100,000,000 General Fund appropriation.

HCSD plans to provide rental assistance and eviction prevention and diversion services (described below) both directly and through local service delivery partners in the following ways:

Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program: \$100,000,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation is approved on a one-time basis for HCSD to provide rental assistance for qualified applications in the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program. These funds will be applied to existing, eligible applications within the evaluation queue. To the extent that resources exceed current eligible applications submitted as of December 1, 2021, they may be applied to new applications, in the event that the program reopens to applicants. Administrative and program delivery costs are anticipated to total 10% of the approved funding.

Program Delivery and Administrative Expenses: \$5,000,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation is approved for OERAP program delivery and administrative expenses that will help to ensure that existing applications are evaluated and processed in a timely fashion by HCSD's contractor, Public Partnerships LLC. These funds will also help the agency to erect and manage an ongoing eviction prevention and diversion strategy, involving agency programs and cooperation with local service providers, and support procurement.

Approved funding supports the establishment of 14 permanent positions (9.00 FTE) at a cost of \$1,824,089 Other Funds; these will support policy development, investment prioritization, and program administration. While the agency's work related to eviction prevention and diversion is anticipated to be permanent, the revenue source supporting these positions is not; HCSD will need to look to federal or other non-General Fund sources to support these positions in the 2023-25 biennium and beyond. The positions and associated activities are as follows:

- Operations and Policy Analyst 4 to serve as a legal and policy lead (0.67 FTE)
- Operations and Policy Analyst 4 to manage program compliance (0.63 FTE)
- Program Analyst 3 for eviction prevention and diversion program administration (0.63 FTE)
- Program Analyst 2 for local partner training and technical assistance (0.67 FTE)
- Program Analyst 2 for local partner training and technical assistance (0.63 FTE)
- Program Analyst 2 for eviction prevention and diversion program administration (0.67 FTE)
- Project Manager 2 for eviction prevention and diversion program administration (0.63 FTE)
- Program Analyst 1 for eviction prevention and diversion program administration (0.63 FTE)
- Procurement and Contract Specialist 2 to initiate and manage contract and grant agreements with local partners (0.67 FTE)
- Procurement and Contract Specialist 2 to initiate and manage contract and grant agreements with local partners (0.63 FTE)
- Procurement and Contract Specialist 3 to initiate and manage contract and grant agreements with local partners (0.67 FTE)
- Operations and Policy Analyst 3 to manage stakeholder engagement, outreach, and coordinate implementation of programs (0.63 FTE)
- Research Analyst 3 to conduct program evaluation (0.67 FTE)
- Information Systems Specialist 4 for software and information systems platform management (0.63 FTE)



Local Emergency Rental Assistance Programs and Eviction Prevention and Diversion Services: \$100,000,000 General Fund is approved as one-time for HCSD to partner with local service providers in meeting the needs of tenants, including rental assistance, help with late fees, or other financial assistance that may be needed to maintain tenant stability. Providers and services are likely to include a mix of the following:

- Community Action Agencies for emergency housing assistance and eviction diversion strategies distributed based on a needs-based formula that accounts for oversubscription of local federal Emergency Rental Assistance programs, specifically in Lane and Multnomah Counties, to ensure all existing applications are funded.
- Community-based organizations that partner with the Oregon Health Authority, to provide outreach and engagement activities including case management and support services that may also include rental assistance and eviction diversion. Funds will be focused on partner organizations that serve the most vulnerable Oregonians at highest risk of eviction, in a culturally responsive way, and those who are providing OERAP housing stability services. Organizations could include Unite Oregon.
- Organizations that provide eviction prevention and housing stability services to tenants, and organizations that provide coordination and support for tenants seeking to access assistance and services, such as 211, Springfield Eugene Tenant Association, centralized call centers, and others.
- New partners that design and build culturally responsive eviction interventions, including the Oregon Worker Relief Coalition (through a fiscal sponsor: Seeding Justice).

In addition, these funds will be used to support planning and sharing of best practices that will inform the development of best practices for eviction prevention, both immediately and in 2022. The amount approved also includes \$2,000,000 for HCSD to contract with Portland State University (Homeless Research Action Collaborative and other university researchers) to analyze further data on eviction diversion programs. This work will be used to inform policy decisions and identify best practices as HCSD seeks to develop and deploy state guidance around this issue and its contribution to homelessness. HCSD also intends to provide technical assistance to grantees through a nationally recognized vendor, ICF, and provide planning grants to support fiscal year 2022 prevention strategies. A portion of funds will be held back for eviction prevention strategies in fiscal year 2022.

Landlord Guarantee Program: \$10,000,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation is approved on a one-time basis for a grant to Home Forward to supplement the Landlord Guarantee Program created SB 278 (2021) to compensate landlords who can demonstrate that they accumulated nonpayment balances while they delayed termination notices or eviction proceedings. The approved amount includes \$1,000,000 (10%) for Home Forward's administrative costs or those of its subcontractors; separate accounting and reporting mechanisms are to be maintained for non-administrative program expenses.

### Department of Education

The Joint Committee approved \$2 million General Fund on a one-time basis to provide funding for the East Metro Outreach, Prevention, and Intervention (OPI) program. The Department's Youth Development Division will assist the City of Gresham to support program implementation

and evaluation. OPI will help provide services aimed at decreasing youth violence, building community, and demonstrating that investments in mentoring and culturally-responsive programs can improve public safety outcomes.

### **Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

As part of the drought relief package, the Joint Committee approved a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 General Fund, as part of the Public University Statewide Programs budget unit, for distribution to Oregon State University for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute for Oregon Climate Services research. One-time funding for four additional efforts was also approved:

- \$500,000 General Fund for distribution to Oregon State University Extension Service to provide technical assistance to small and underrepresented farmers and ranchers in accessing state and federal assistance programs.
- \$500,000 General Fund for distribution to Oregon State University Extension Service to provide education, marketing, and technical assistance for drought resistant crops and conservation and efficiency infrastructure.
- \$250,000 General Fund for distribution to Oregon State University Extension Service to work closely with commodity commissions to survey producers around the state.
- \$250,000 General Fund for distribution to the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences to conduct soil health research.

### **Oregon Health Authority**

The bill appropriates \$19 million General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for a one-time increase in payments to dental care providers to support costs associated with maintaining access and service levels for medical assistance program enrollees. OHA will distribute this funding consistent with a methodology recommended by dental care and coordinated care organizations and will require each organization to submit a follow-up report demonstrating how the funds were spent to meet the intent of the appropriation. To pay for this cost, the bill eliminates a related \$19 million special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board.

### **Department of Human Services**

The Joint Committee approved \$18,238,662 General Fund to the Oregon Department of Human Services for a one-time, 12-month package that is expected to support up to 1,200 Afghan individuals and families paroled into the United States through the U.S. State Department's Afghan Placement and Assistance program. The package includes \$5,251,500 for short-term food and shelter, \$2,914,286 for case management services, \$5,961,600 for rental assistance, \$807,600 for culturally specific assistance and interpretation classes, and \$2,890,000 for immigration and legal services. Also included is \$413,676 for new limited-duration positions: two Operations and Policy Analyst 3 positions (1.16 FTE) in the Self-Sufficiency program (SSP) to coordinate long-term housing, and develop a statewide culturally specific refugee support infrastructure through training, coordination, and capacity building; and, two Administrative Specialist 2 positions (0.50 FTE) in Central Services-Emergency Management Unit to serve as shelter liaisons.

## **Department of Agriculture**

The Joint Committee approved \$5 million total funds to initiate efforts to suppress grasshopper and cricket outbreaks impacting farmers across Oregon due to drought conditions. The one-time funding includes \$4 million of General Fund and \$1 million of constitutionally dedicated Measure 76 Lottery Funds. The Measure 76 Lottery Funds will be used to hire 10 limited duration positions (4.76 FTE) that will conduct the survey work in the early spring to determine the location of grasshopper and cricket populations as well as develop treatment plans and GIS mapping to assist landowners with the appropriate treatment application.

The General Fund provided includes approximately \$3.8 million to be made available for a cost-share program, allowing private landowners to get financial assistance from the Department for the expense of treatment, in order to maximize participation in suppression efforts. Additional General Fund of \$192,241 is provided for a limited duration Program Analyst 3 position (0.75 FTE) to assist with the cost-share program establishment, implementation, and oversight.

A one-time General Fund appropriation of \$40 million was approved by the Joint Committee to deposit into the Oregon Agricultural Disaster Relief Fund, for the establishment of a forgivable loan program to assist farming and ranching producers who have sustained crop losses due to drought and other disasters. At least \$36 million of the investment will be available for forgivable loans, with 14% of the funding allocated for making loans to persons residing, farming, or ranching in Jefferson County. Up to \$4 million (or 10%) of the program total is anticipated for administrative costs. All moneys remaining in the fund on June 30, 2023 are to be deposited in the General Fund.

The budget measure also includes a corresponding \$40 million Other Funds expenditure limitation to distribute loans out of the fund. The Department anticipates hiring four limited duration positions (3.00 FTE), an Operations and Policy Analyst 3, a Program Analyst 3, Accountant 3, and Administrative Specialist 1 to establish rules, providing funding coordination, oversight, outreach, and assistance to landowners. The agency does not have experience operating a loan program, so a portion of the administrative costs includes funding to contract with local and regional lending organizations to rely on their expertise to distribute the loans more efficiently and effectively. If the full \$4,000,000 is not needed for administration, the remaining funds are to be used to make additional loans.

## **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

The Joint Committee approved a total of \$3,627,000 General Fund for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to implement a program providing matching grants to irrigation districts to support investments in irrigation modernization projects and for the establishment of three limited-duration positions (0.70 FTE) to provide program administration support. Of the total funding provided, \$217,850 is budgeted for program administration, including personal services costs, \$100,000 is budgeted for contracted facilitation services for local collaborative processes, and the remaining funding is for program grants. Of the grant funding, \$2 million is appropriated for projects in the North Unit Irrigation District in Jefferson County. Grant funding is intended for projects that conserve water pursuant to Oregon's Conserved Water Act. Grants for water conservation projects (e.g. piping or canal lining) should be projects to protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve stream flows.

Two General Fund appropriations of \$1 million (\$2 million total) were approved for drought resilience projects in Jefferson and Klamath Counties. The funding supports the expansion of three limited-duration positions (0.21 FTE) established by other legislative actions, contract services for convening local discussions to determine locally-driven solutions for drought resiliency, and competitive grants to support resiliency and use reduction projects.

The Joint Committee approved \$3 million General Fund for OWEB to create a program providing grants for livestock watering well and construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County. Program funding includes expansion of three limited-duration positions (0.86 FTE) established by other legislative actions. Of the total appropriation, \$266,500 supports the administration and operation of the program, with the remaining \$2,733,500 available for grants. The purpose of the grants is to help defer the cost for irrigated pasture owners to move livestock watering facilities away from riparian areas, minimizing grazing impacts to riparian areas and the dependency on in-stream water sources.

The bill also includes of \$3 million General Fund for distribution to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds. These practices include, but are not limited to, the creation of shelter belts and wind breaks, and rotating drought adapted crops.

### **Water Resources Department**

Drought relief package budget components approved for the Water Resources Department (WRD) include a one-time appropriation of \$300,000 General Fund to contract for a statewide drought vulnerability assessment for both instream and out-of-stream needs. The assessment is primarily intended to examine the drought vulnerability of agriculture, environmental ecosystem, and domestic uses in the near term.

The Joint Committee approved a one-time appropriation of \$3,750,000 General fund to capitalize the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund. A corresponding increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation is provided to the agency for the expenditure of the monies from the fund and the establishment of three limited-duration positions (1.88 FTE) for program administration, technical evaluations, and reporting. The fund allows for WRD to provide financial assistance to abandon, repair, or replace, domestic wells due to deficiencies in well construction, income limitations of well owners, declining ground water levels, conformity with resource management, and natural disasters.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department prioritize the available funding in the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund, for assistance to persons of lower or moderate income for domestic wells that are in an area of, and recently impacted by, drought or wildfire. Additionally, eligible assistance under the program should include those costs incurred as of the effective date of the program. Should statute need amending to support the use of the funding to address the timely delivery of financial aid to those persons recently impacted by drought or wildfire as described here, the Legislature will seek to address those changes during the 2022 legislative session.

In response to water theft tied to the proliferation of illegal cannabis grows, the Joint Committee approved \$5 million General Fund to pay for 29 permanent, full-time positions (18.13 FTE) to expand the agency's capacity related to water rights enforcement activities. Fourteen of the positions will be used as Assistant Watermasters, with at least six of those stationed in the southwest region of Oregon where cannabis issues

are most prevalent. Two administrative specialist positions will be used to provide field support. A dedicated enforcement section will be established that includes a section manager, four enforcement and compliance staff, along with an enforcement and compliance order specialist. The enforcement section will be in Salem and provide support for field staff as well as coordination with local code enforcement programs, other state agencies, and state and county law enforcement.

Policy and communication programs will be enhanced with the addition of a policy analyst to primarily deal with cannabis enforcement policy and potential legislation related to cannabis issues and the addition of a public affairs specialist to enhance public outreach. A software engineer position and an information technology system support analyst position, along with \$827,000 for contracted information technology services, will be used to expand and develop technology solutions to aid operational and enforcement activities. Other supporting positions include a hydrologist to develop methodologies for and train enforcement staff in performing reconnaissance for illegal cannabis operations using remotely sensed data; a hydrographer position to address workload issues; and an administrative specialist to help alleviate workload in the agency administration program.

#### **Criminal Justice Commission**

The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$20 million for deposit into the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program Fund established in SB 1544 (2018). Monies in this fund are to provide grants to local governments to assist with the costs incurred by local law enforcement agencies in addressing unlawful marijuana cultivation or distribution operations. A corresponding \$20 million Other Funds expenditure limitation is provided for the Commission to distribute the grants out of the fund.

### **Adjustments to 2019-21 Budgets**

#### **Long Term Care Ombudsman**

For the 2019-21 biennium, the Joint Committee approved a net-zero change moving \$75,148 General Fund between the agency's two General Fund appropriations, which supports final accounting and budget close-out adjustments for the biennium ending June 30, 2021.