

**HB 4067 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/22, 2/22

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Clarifies authority of the urban flood safety and water quality district's governing board and reorganizes provisions concerning its initial board, financial tools and funding. Authorizes district to bring civil action under certain conditions. Takes effect on 91<sup>st</sup> day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 431 (2019) established the urban flood safety and water quality district in Multnomah County to manage and improve the region's levee system infrastructure and to improve and protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and landscape resiliency. Prior to the district's creation, the 27-mile system of levees stretching from North Portland to the eastern metro area had been maintained by four local drainage districts that lacked the resources to provide for more than basic operations and that were unable to finance capital improvements. As a result, the region's levees fell out of compliance with federal standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency after catastrophic levee failures in other regions of the country.

House Bill 4067 reorganizes provisions related to the governing board of the urban flood safety and water quality district, intended to support the transition from the initial board, which replaced the four previous drainage districts, to the permanent board, and to clarify the board's authority, and fortify financial tools and funding available to it.