

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Digest: The Act tells an entity to create a program for helping households that rely on water wells or septic systems. The Act gives money for other purposes related to water wells and septic systems. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.0).

Instructs the Oregon State University Extension Service to establish a program for providing assistance to households that rely on wells for drinking water or on septic systems for wastewater treatment.

Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission out of the General Fund for distribution to the extension service for implementing the program.

Appropriates moneys to the Water Resources Department out of the General Fund for deposit into the Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund.

Appropriates moneys to the Department of Environmental Quality out of the General Fund for the septic system low-interest loan programs.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to rural water supplies; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) To protect public health, the environment and the quality and quantity of ground water, and to increase the security of drinking water and wastewater, the Oregon State University Extension Service shall establish a program to provide assistance to households that rely on wells for drinking water or on septic systems for wastewater treatment.**

**(2) Assistance under the program must include:**

**(a) Outreach.**

1       **(b) Research.**

2       **(c) Education.**

3       **(d) Advice on navigating available resources.**

4       **(e) Monitoring of wells and septic systems.**

5       **(3) Under the program, the extension service shall focus on provid-**  
6 **ing assistance to households in areas that are declared areas of ground**  
7 **water concern under ORS 468B.175.**

8       **SECTION 2.** **There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordi-**  
9 **nating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the**  
10 **General Fund, the amount of \$2,500,000, for distribution to the Oregon**  
11 **State University Extension Service for the purpose of carrying out the**  
12 **provisions of section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

13       **SECTION 3.** **There is appropriated to the Water Resources Depart-**  
14 **ment, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General**  
15 **Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for deposit into the Water Well Aban-**  
16 **donment, Repair and Replacement Fund established by ORS 537.766.**

17       **SECTION 4.** **There is appropriated to the Department of Environ-**  
18 **mental Quality, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the**  
19 **General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for purposes related to the**  
20 **septic system low-interest loan programs described in ORS 454.777 and**  
21 **454.779.**

22       **SECTION 5.** **This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**  
23 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**  
24 **clared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.**