

**HB 2813 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

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**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to ensure that all communities in Oregon that use surface water as a drinking water source have access to safe and sufficient drinking water. Specifies OHA duties and objectives necessary to achieve this goal. Directs OHA in consultation with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to establish a grant program for water suppliers to protect, restore, or enhance sources of drinking water. Specifies eligible grant uses, a maximum grant cap of \$3 million requirements, and the application and selection process. Establishes Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund and appropriates \$5 million General Fund moneys for the grant program.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issue*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

As the primary agency for the implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in Oregon, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is authorized to adopt safety standards necessary to ensure safe drinking water within a water system. These standards include system requirements to stay below maximum contaminant levels, submit to periodic inspections, and meet enforcement requirements as administered by OHA. To support compliance with these standards, OHA provides technical assistance and oversight of grants and loans for public water system operations. Currently, 2.8 million Oregonians from 163 communities source their water from forested watersheds. Pollution sources for these watersheds includes landslides, eroding stream banks, agricultural fertilizers and herbicides, as well as infrastructure builds like boat ramps.

House Bill 2813 would require OHA to ensure that all communities in Oregon have access to safe drinking water and would establish a grant program to support water suppliers in protecting, restoring and enhancing sources of drinking water.