

**HB 3231 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

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

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

**Meeting Dates:** 3/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in consultation with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and other relevant state agencies and interested parties to study barriers and opportunities to expanding water reuse or recycled water programs in Oregon by (1) characterizing priority recycled water and beneficial land application project types in regard to water quality, water supply, or habitat and ecosystem needs; (2) identifying regulatory and other impediments to expanding water reuse and potential regulatory changes needed to remove them; (3) identifying environmentally friendly water reuse approaches in other states; (3) developing technical assistance guidance for local jurisdictions and industries seeking permitting and development of recycled water and other beneficial land application programs related to water reuse. Requires DEQ to report findings to the legislature by Sept 15, 2024, and specifies contents of the report. Appropriates funds to DEQ and OWRD. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Water reuse refers to water systems designed with the goal of beneficially reusing a recycled water supply. Requirements to align recycled water use with public health considerations are defined by rule (OAR 340-055-0012) and implemented by the Department of Environmental Quality in coordination with the Oregon Water Resources Department, the Health Services Division, and the Department of Human Services. Under these rules, wastewater treatment plants are required to develop comprehensive site and facility specific water reuse management plans. In general, the type of allowable use of recycled water is determined by one of four associated treatment levels. Oregon enacted its first reuse policy in 1990 and since then, [do we have a #?] water reuse programs have been established throughout the state.

HB 3231 would direct the Department of Environmental Quality in consultation with the Oregon Water Resources Department to study barriers and opportunities for expanding water reuse or recycled water programs in Oregon.