

HB 3207 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Amends reporting requirements for real estate transaction sampling of domestic wells to require labs conducting tests to submit results to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) within 90 days of submitting the test results to the real estate seller. Requires DEQ to process, geolocate, and review the data, make results of tests available to public, provide results of tests to Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and use the data to inform the prevention of ground water contamination. Authorizes OHA to analyze test results, identify areas with likely ground water contamination, provide ground water contamination education in collaboration with DEQ and other state agencies, and notify a local public health authority that ground water contaminant education is needed in a particular area. Allows DEQ to assist OHA upon request. Becomes operative July 1, 2024. Allows DEQ and OHA to take action before operative date to ensure departments' ability to perform duties described in the measure on and after operative date.

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:

If ground water becomes polluted through processes like microbial contamination, high concentrations of naturally occurring contaminants, local land use practices, or problems with the integrity of nearby on-site septic systems, it is no longer safe to drink. The Domestic Well Testing Act (ORS 448.271) applies to the sale or exchange of real estate with a domestic well which is defined as being used for purposes like drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Samples must be tested by an accredited laboratory for arsenic, nitrate, and E. coli bacteria. Oregon does not currently have a statewide database of domestic well testing results.

House Bill 3207 would amend reporting requirements for real estate transaction sampling of domestic wells to require test results to be submitted to Department of Environmental Quality within 90 days of submitting the test results to the seller, and to be made available to the Oregon Health Authority as well as the public.