

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3231 - A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with Water Resources Department, to develop recommendations and other resources to expand beneficial water reuse or recycled water programs or projects in state.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 3231 - A directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with the Water Resources Department (WRD), to address barriers to, and develop technical assistance resources to support, expanded beneficial water reuse or recycled water programs and projects. DEQ is to characterize recycled water and beneficial land application project types that are priorities to support water quality, water supply or use and habitat or ecosystem needs; identify regulatory and other impediments to expanding water reuse, and possible regulatory changes, as well as a proposed implementation schedule for enacting proposed changes; identify environmentally protective approaches successfully employed by other states with robust water reuse programs; and develop technical assistance guidance, or other resources, for local jurisdictions and industries to seek permitting and development of recycled water and other beneficial land application programs. DEQ is to submit a progress report on the resources developed to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to water no later than December 31, 2023; and a final report which includes completed resources developed, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024. The measure appropriates \$340,000 to DEQ and \$100,000 to WRD to carry out this measure. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislature adjourns sine die, and sunsets on January 2, 2025.

Department of Environmental Quality

Estimated costs for DEQ total \$219,393 General Fund. To implement this measure, DEQ would hire one limited duration Natural Resource Specialist 4 (0.63 FTE) to support project management, policy evaluation, stakeholder engagement and coordination, and to develop recommendations and draft the required reports. Total costs of the position are estimated at \$169,393 General Fund, which includes \$145,275 for personal services and \$24,118 for services and supplies.

Additional costs for DEQ are an estimated \$50,000 General Fund to contract for outreach and guidance materials that will support local communities considering water reuse projects to navigate permitting options.

DEQ notes that there may be work after the report is completed and sent to the Legislature, including work around distribution of guidance materials and outreach. However, based on the effective and sunset dates included in this measure, Natural Resource Specialist 4 position is priced under the assumption that the position will be hired around October 2023 and phase out in December 2024.

Water Resources Department

The measure appropriates \$100,000 to WRD to consult on the work required by DEQ under this measure.

It is not clear to what extent WRD would need to provide assistance to DEQ for this work. WRD notes that currently less than 0.1 FTE works on reclaimed municipal water use registration. WRD may need to use funding provided under this measure to hire temporary staff to participate in research, creation of materials, and review of regulations.

Other agencies

There is no or minimal fiscal impact anticipated for cities, counties, Department of Land Conservation and Development, and Department of Agriculture.