

## HB 3321 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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**Action Date:** 03/21/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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

**Meeting Dates:** 3/9, 3/21

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to enter into a contract with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) to perform and enter into contract with a third party to study the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems. Directs DAS to consult with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), county environmental health departments and county emergency managers in designing the parameters of study, including water supply reliability and quality, utility board operations and management, infrastructure, natural hazards, certain financial aspects, regulations and safety standards, and opportunities for emergency interties, system consolidation and regionalization. Requires the third party contract to further direct OAWU to design and construct a water utility training center to provide technical, financial, and managerial support and resources to individuals; hire and employ one training specialist and two technical assistance providers; and to submit a report to water-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2024. Appropriates \$2.5 million General Fund moneys to DAS for distribution to OAWU. Directs OHA, DEQ, and OWRD to cooperate with OAWU by providing any data or requested information associated with the study. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for consolidation and regionalization of small community water systems
- Number of small community water systems in Oregon
- Potential to increase system efficiencies in regard to small community water systems

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

A community water system (CWS) supplies water to the same population year-round. It serves at least 25 people at their primary residences or at least 15 residences that are primary residences. In Oregon, small water systems are required to have an operator with a small water system (SWS) operator certification, which can be obtained from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) after a one-day training course and the completion of an exam.

House Bill 3321 A would direct the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) to perform and enter into contract with a third party to study the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems. Directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to consult with OHA, the Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Water Resources Department, county environmental health departments and county emergency managers to design the study parameters. The measure would also appropriate \$2.5 million in

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General Fund moneys to DAS.