

HB 2867 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 03/27/23

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

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Helm, Kropf, Levy B, Levy E, Marsh, Osborne, Owens, Pham K, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Desalination (Task Force), its membership, responsibilities, and meeting criteria. Requires the Oregon Water Resources Department to provide staff support to the Task Force. Requires Task Force to study the creation of a statewide desalination program. Requires Task Force to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024. Sunsets Task Force and its membership, responsibilities, and meeting criteria on December 31, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of other countries using desalination processes
- Types of fuel used in desalination plants
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon and the western United States are experiencing a megadrought, which is defined as a decades-long period of extreme dryness. Megadroughts can impact people and the environment when water supplies are disrupted. Responses to drought and megadrought may include instituting restrictions on irrigation for agriculture, cities restricting the use of water, state agencies creating long-term resiliency plans, and, in some cases, relying on desalination to create fresh water.

Desalination is the process of removing dissolved salt from saltwater.

House Bill 2867 A establishes a Task Force on Desalination staffed by the Oregon Water Resources Department to study the creation of a statewide desalination program.