

House Bill 3356

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, OWENS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Interagency Water Officer in office of Governor.
Establishes Strategic Water Management Council. Describes duties of council.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to interagency water resources coordination.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created within the office of the Governor the position of Inter-**
5 **agency Water Officer. The Governor shall appoint an individual to serve as Interagency**
6 **Water Officer.**

7 **(2) The Interagency Water Officer shall:**

8 **(a) Act as the lead interagency coordinator for high priority policies, plans and projects**
9 **that affect the water resources of this state and require agency coordination.**

10 **(b) Serve as the chairperson of the Strategic Water Management Council.**

11 **(c) Oversee efforts to improve interagency coordination of water resources related data,**
12 **policies, plans, budgets, funding opportunities and permitting processes.**

13 **(d) Coordinate tribal consultation on interagency activities affecting the water resources**
14 **of this state.**

15 **(3) The Interagency Water Officer may act as the lead negotiator and coordinator with**
16 **the federal government and other state governments on matters related to water resources.**

17 **SECTION 2. (1) There is established the Strategic Water Management Council. The**
18 **Strategic Water Management Council consists of the following members:**

19 **(a) The Interagency Water Officer;**

20 **(b) The Water Resources Director;**

21 **(c) The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality;**

22 **(d) The executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board;**

23 **(e) The Director of the Oregon Health Authority;**

24 **(f) The State Fish and Wildlife Director;**

25 **(g) The Director of Agriculture;**

26 **(h) The Director of the State Department of Energy;**

27 **(i) The Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development;**

28 **(j) The Director of the Department of State Lands;**

29 **(k) The State Forester;**

30 **(L) The State Geologist;**

31 **(m) The Director of the Oregon Business Development Department;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (n) The State Parks and Recreation Director; and

2 (o) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Department.

3 (2) A designee of an official described in subsection (1) of this section may serve as a
4 member of the council in place of the official.

5 (3) The Interagency Water Officer shall be the chairperson of the council and the Water
6 Resources Director shall be the vice chairperson.

7 (4) The council shall adopt rules necessary for the operation of the council.

8 (5) The office of the Governor shall provide staff support to the council.

9 (6) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the
10 council in the performance of the duties of the council and, to the extent permitted by laws
11 relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the council
12 consider necessary to perform their duties.

13 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Strategic Water Management Council established under section 2 of
14 this 2023 Act shall:

15 (a) Develop, on a biennial basis, an interagency work plan to identify water resources
16 related priorities, direct existing state resources across agencies to those priorities and
17 identify additional investments needed to implement the priorities.

18 (b) Coordinate the water resources related portions of each agency's biennial budget.

19 (c) Support the development and implementation of a coordinated statewide water in-
20 vestment strategy as a part of the integrated state water resources strategy described in
21 ORS 536.220.

22 (d) Develop metrics related to the water resources of this state and compile data based
23 on those metrics.

24 (e) Conduct, on a biennial basis, interagency presentations, listening sessions and other
25 coordinated public participation opportunities in communities across this state to report
26 progress on council priorities and receive information to inform the biennial work plan and
27 funding decisions related to water resources.

28 (f) Develop, on a biennial basis, a work plan to identify interagency priorities and needed
29 investments and to direct funding of water resources related projects or programs.

30 (g) Conduct tribal consultation on interagency activities affecting the water resources
31 of this state.

32 (2) The council may:

33 (a) Coordinate agency activities that will benefit from increased integration and coordi-
34 nation across agencies, including but not limited to water resources related data, policies,
35 plans, funding opportunities and permitting processes.

36 (b) Coordinate interagency responses to problems affecting the water resources of this
37 state.

38 (3) In carrying out the duties and functions described in subsections (1) and (2) of this
39 section, the council shall:

40 (a) Take actions that are consistent with, and seek to advance, the integrated state water
41 resources strategy described in ORS 536.220; and

42 (b) Find opportunities to partner with federal agencies and encourage federal agency
43 actions that are consistent with the integrated state water resources strategy described in
44 ORS 536.220.