

House Bill 3575

Sponsored by Representative HELM

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**.

Instructs Water Resources Commission to make funding decisions for loans and grants awarded from Water Supply Development Account twice each year.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to water supply development projects; amending ORS 541.669.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 541.669 is amended to read:

5 541.669. (1) The Water Resources Commission shall adopt rules establishing a system for scoring
6 and ranking projects to determine which projects are to be awarded loans and grants from the
7 Water Supply Development Account, including but not limited to the application of minimum criteria
8 designed to achieve the outcomes described in ORS 541.677. The criteria shall be based on the public
9 benefit categories described in ORS 541.673. The commission shall make the loan and grant funding
10 decisions [*once*] **twice** each year. Applications must be filed with the Water Resources Department.
11 The department shall accept an application for a loan or grant at any time, but shall establish a
12 yearly deadline for the consideration of a pool of applications.

13 (2) The department shall conduct a preliminary review of applications to check for completeness,
14 eligibility and minimum requirements upon receipt of each application. The department shall return
15 incomplete applications to the applicant. The department shall provide public notice by posting new
16 funding applications on the department's website for a 60-day period prior to reviewing the appli-
17 cations. The department shall provide for the receipt of public comment on the applications during
18 the 60-day period that applications are posted on the department's website.

19 (3) The department shall forward applications that have passed preliminary review, along with
20 any comments received from applicants or the public, to a technical review team consisting of rep-
21 resentatives of the Water Resources Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, the
22 State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Business
23 Development Department, affected Indian tribes, any collaborative body established by the Governor
24 to address challenges, opportunities and priorities for the region affected by the project and addi-
25 tional experts as determined by the Water Resources Department. The technical review team shall
26 conduct the initial scoring and ranking for the projects described in the applications, consider
27 comments from applicants and the public and make loan and grant funding recommendations to the
28 commission. The commission shall determine the final scoring and ranking of projects and make the
29 final decision regarding which projects are awarded loans or grants from the account. Before the
30 commission makes a final decision on an application, the commission shall offer one additional op-
31 portunity for public comment.

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 (4) The commission is not required to obligate all available account moneys during a funding
2 cycle. Any available account moneys that are not obligated during a funding cycle shall be carried
3 forward and be made available for projects in future funding cycles.

4 (5) The department shall document the ranking of all applications and make the application
5 ranking publicly available after the funding decisions by the commission have been published.

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