A-Engrossed

Senate Bill 956

Ordered by the Senate April 10
Including Senate Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Senator HANSELL, Representative LEVY B; Senators MANNING JR, WAGNER

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.

Instructs Water Resources [Commission] Department to take certain actions related to Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the Walla Walla River Basin.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Department shall collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington to implement and guide cooperative, bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin under the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan, under advice from a Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee consisting of representatives from a broad range of interests, including agricultural, environmental and other stakeholders and federal, tribal, state and local governments.

(2) The Legislative Assembly declares that it is the intent of this 2023 Act that:

(a) This state shall share in the cost of implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

(b) At least one-half of the total costs of implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan will be funded through federal, private and other nonstate sources, including funding from private entities that benefit from projects under the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

(3) The department shall implement the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan as an integrated water resources approach that invites coordination among this state and the State of Washington, affected federally recognized Indian tribes, agencies and community stakeholders, including stakeholders concerned with agriculture, the environment and business.

(4) In developing water supply solutions in the Walla Walla River Basin, the department shall use an integrated water resources management approach that provides concurrent water supply benefits to in-stream, out-of-stream and ground water uses and addresses a variety of water resource and ecosystem challenges affecting fish passage, habitat functions and agricultural, municipal, industrial and domestic water supply, consistent with the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

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.

LC 2970
(5) In consultation with affected federally recognized Indian tribes, and in cooperation with the State of Washington, the department shall assess the development of a legal and regulatory framework, coordinated between this state and the State of Washington, for the allocation, distribution and management of developed water resources.

(6) Agencies, as defined in ORS 183.310, in undertaking the agencies’ programs or using moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, may, consistent with all other statutory limitations or direction concerning the agencies’ programs or use of the moneys, fund the study, design, engineering and construction of projects implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan that are located wholly or partially in the State of Washington if the projects:

(a) Benefit in-stream, out-of-stream or ground water demands in this state; and

(b) Are consistent with the objectives of the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

SECTION 2. (1) On or before June 30, 2025, the Water Resources Department shall submit a report, in the manner prescribed in ORS 192.245, to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to water that contains recommendations for a legal and regulatory framework to promote equitable allocation, distribution and management of developed water resources and water supplies resulting from projects undertaken under the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

(2) In coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington, the department shall report three times in 2024, and three times in 2025 before the date specified in subsection (1) of this section, to the Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee described in section 1 (1) of this 2023 Act on the development of a legal and regulatory framework, coordinated between this state and the State of Washington, for the allocation, distribution and management of developed water resources, as described in section 1 (5) of this 2023 Act.