

HB 3121 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2.5 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to contract with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities to provide technical assistance, develop a water utility training center, and hire three staff to support small and very small community water systems in Oregon.

Detailed Analysis

I. Provisions

Requires the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to enter into a contract with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (the Association) to carry out the following:

- **Provide technical assistance** to small and very small community water systems, either directly or through a third-party provider, to address their specific needs and vulnerabilities.
- Develop or acquire equipment for a **water utility training center** that offers technical, financial, and managerial support tailored to small and very small community water systems.
- **Employ three staff members** who will provide support and resources to address the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems in Oregon.

II. Appropriations

- Allocates \$2.5 million in General Fund money to DAS, and requires DAS distribute these funds to the Association for implementation.

III. Operative Date and Sunset

- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.
- Sunsets the program January 2, 2027.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Safe Drinking Water Act defines small systems as public water systems that serve 10,000 or fewer people. Very small water systems are defined by rule ([OAR 333-061-0020\(91\)](#)) and serve between four and 14 service connections. These systems are exempt from certain rule requirements and make up 24 percent of Oregon's public water systems.