



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2026 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to Harney Basin water; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Counties, Burns Paiute Tribe, Judicial Department, Cities, Special Districts, Water Resources Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

The measure directs the Water Resources Department to approve voluntary agreements among groundwater users within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern to achieve reasonably stable groundwater levels. The measure establishes agreement requirements, approval and termination standards, limits the state’s role to exercising rights only as a landowner for state-owned water rights, and prohibits minimum participation thresholds or delegation of approval authority. The measure also authorizes minor amendments without Water Resources Commission approval and certain temporary changes in water use with reporting.

A more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the next committee.

Further Analysis Required