

**HB 4102 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

**Carrier:** Sen. Sollman

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**Action Date:** 02/25/26  
**Action:** Do pass.  
**Vote:** 3-1-1-0  
**Yeas:** 3 - Golden, Robinson, Sollman  
**Nays:** 1 - Pham  
**Exc:** 1 - Smith DB  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/16, 2/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure modifies the statute authorizing the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to enter into an agreement with an applicant, permittee, or regulated entity to expedite or enhance a regulatory process. The measure takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

- Allows DEQ to spend money received under an agreement made with an applicant, permittee, or regulated entity in a regulatory process for hiring additional staff, including limited-duration employees, to expedite or enhance the regulatory process
- Requires DEQ, before hiring additional staff or contracting with a third party to provide services, to evaluate opportunities to perform the services with existing staff
- Establishes agreement request, review, and approval procedures and associated timelines for the applicant and DEQ
- Establishes notice and publication requirements for DEQ
- Becomes operative January 1, 2027

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Ensuring contracted entities do not have a conflict of interest with the permit applicant
- Permitting process timeline
- Workgroup process for developing the measure
- Workforce requirements

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to DEQ, its mission is to “be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon’s air, land and water.” The five-member Environmental Quality Commission oversees DEQ and sets the department’s policies and rules.

Currently, as stated in ORS 468.073, DEQ has the authority to enter into an agreement with any applicant, permittee, or regulated entity to set a schedule of payments to the department. The purpose of such an agreement is to enable DEQ to expedite or enhance a regulatory process by contracting for services, hiring additional staff, or covering costs of activities not otherwise provided during the ordinary course of department business. These agreements may help relieve permit backlogs.