



Staff Report

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator
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DATE: June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J
Water Resources Commission

BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

I. Introduction

During this informational report, staff will provide an update on the 2025 Legislative Session.

II. Background

Department staff will brief the Commission with the most up-to-date information on legislation and budget items during the meeting. Information about the 2025 Legislative Session is online at www.oregonlegislature.com and then clicking on the OLIS icon.

May 23 was the last day for measures to move out of second chamber committees; however, deadlines do not apply to measures in the Ways and Means, Revenue, and Rules Committees. See attachment 1 for the status of water-related legislation. The Department will not know the full scope of its budget until the end of the session. However, staff will provide an overview of what is known about the budget during the meeting.

III. Conclusion

The constitutional Sine Die deadline for adjournment is June 25, but the target Sine Die deadline for adjournment is June 18. Staff will keep the Commission apprised of important developments through the end of the Session.

Attachments:

1. Status of water-related legislation

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Bill Number	Relating To	Bill Summary	Current Committee
HB 2165 INTRO	Relating to the financial administration of the Water Resources Department; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Water Resources Department for costs related to well construction and compliance.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2168 INTRO	Relating to rural water supplies; declaring an emergency.	Instructs the Oregon State University Extension Service to establish a program for providing assistance to households that rely on wells for drinking water or on septic systems for wastewater treatment.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2169 A	Relating to water reuse; declaring an emergency.	Establishes state policy on water reuse.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2777 INTRO	Relating to mining.	Exempts from the requirement to obtain an onshore exploration permit wells from which sample materials are acquired, if the well is constructed by a licensed well constructor.	Rules (H)
HB 2801 EN	Relating to the time frame for allowing changes to determined claims in the Upper Klamath Basin.	Allows the Water Resources Department to approve leases or temporary transfers of certain water rights in the Upper Klamath Basin until a court issues a final water rights decree.	
HB 2803 A	Relating to fees concerning water; declaring an emergency.	Increases certain fees related to water.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2808 INTRO	Relating to fees concerning wells; declaring an emergency.	Increases certain fees related to wells.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2813 A	Relating to water right retirement under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; declaring an emergency.	Establishes the Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Match Fund in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2988 A	Relating to aquifers.	Instructs the Water Resources Department to take certain actions related to aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3106 A	Relating to water data; prescribing an effective date.	Creates the Integrated Water Data Team.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3114 A	Relating to the Chewaucan River watershed; declaring an emergency.	Instructs Oregon Consensus at Portland State University and Oregon State University to support a process related to water management in the Chewaucan River watershed.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3116 A	Relating to state financial administration; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Water Resources Department for place-based water planning.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3342 EN	Relating to water; and prescribing an effective date.	Modifies provisions of law related to the regulation and administration of water rights in this state.	

HB 3346 A	Relating to siting of energy facilities in designated critical ground water areas.	Requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development, in consultation with the Department of Revenue, State Department of Energy and Water Resources Department, to study siting of energy facilities in designated critical ground water areas east of the Cascade Range.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3364 EN	Relating to water; and prescribing an effective date.	Makes changes related to a water supply grant program.	
HB 3372 EN	Relating to exempt uses of water.	Permits certain exempt ground water users to withdraw up to 3,000 gallons of water per day for watering any lawn or noncommercial or commercial garden that does not exceed one-half acre.	
HB 3484 A	Relating to water; declaring an emergency.	Increases appropriations made to the Water Resources Department for the 2025-2027 biennium to fund positions related to water right transaction processing activities.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3501 INTRO	Relating to water rights.	Prohibits the consideration of whether certain changes related to water rights would impair or be detrimental to the public interest.	Rules (H)
HB 3525 A	Relating to exempt wells that supply ground water for domestic purposes.	Requires, for each dwelling unit rented by a landlord for which the source of drinking water is an exempt well, that the landlord collect and test samples of drinking water from the dwelling unit for arsenic, Requires, for each dwelling unit rented by a landlord for which the source of drinking water is an exempt well, that the landlord collect and test samples of drinking water from the dwelling unit for arsenic, coliform bacteria, lead and nitrates.	Rules (H)
HB 3544 A	Relating to water.	Establishes uniform processes for hearing contested case proceedings relating to the use of water.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3654 INTRO	Relating to matching grants for cities; prescribing an effective date.	Sets maximum matching fund requirements for state grants to small incorporated cities for capital construction and municipal infrastructure.	Rules (S)
HB 3800 INTRO	Relating to the use of ground water in the Harney Basin.	Renames the "Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern" the "Harney Basin Groundwater Management Area.	Rules (H)
HB 3806 A	Relating to water banks.	Authorizes the Water Resources Commission to approve a Deschutes River water bank pilot program.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 427 INTRO	Relating to water transfers.	Prohibits certain proposed changes related to the appropriation or use of water that will result in the diminishment of streamflow.	Rules (S)
SB 602 INTRO	Relating to state agency relations with nonprofit organizations; prescribing an effective date.	Establishes the Nonprofit Organization Advisory Council within the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.	Rules (S)

SB 761 EN	Relating to the Walla Walla basin.	Authorizes the Water Resources Department to approve applications by certain water districts within the Walla Walla basin to lease existing water rights for temporary conversion to in-stream water rights if certain conditions exist and the department makes certain determinations.	
SB 1047 A	Relating to access to resources for development in Curry County; declaring an emergency.	Requires Curry County and the Water Resources Department to expedite review of applications for use on specified lands.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 1153 INTRO	Relating to water.	Directs the Water Resources Department to consider whether certain water right transfers will result in a loss of in-stream habitat for sensitive, threatened or endangered aquatic species in stream reaches not protected by an existing water right or contribute to water quality impairment in water quality limited streams.	Rules (S)
SB 1154 A	Relating to ground water.	Modifies provisions of law related to declarations of ground water quality concern areas and ground water quality management areas.	Rules (S)
SB 5531 INTRO	Relating to lottery bonds; declaring an emergency.	Modifies the amount and purposes of lottery bonds authorized to be issued for specified state agencies.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 5543 INTRO	Relating to the financial administration of the Water Resources Department; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Water Resources Department for biennial expenses.	Ways and Means (J)
SJR 28 INTRO	Proposing an amendment to the Oregon Constitution relating to a clean, safe and healthy environment.	Proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to establish a fundamental right to a clean, safe and healthy environment. Refers the proposed amendment to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout this state.	Rules (S)
HB 2138 A	Relating to land use; declaring an emergency.	Expands allowable middle housing and expands middle housing requirements to include urban unincorporated lands.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2166 INTRO	Relating to supporting Oregon agriculture; prescribing an effective date.	Requires the State Department of Agriculture to submit a report on the economic competitiveness of Oregon's agricultural sector to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than December 31, 2026.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2347 EN	Relating to land use planning.	Authorizes the Department of Land Conservation and Development to provide planning assistance for housing production to federally recognized Indian tribes.	
HB 2348 EN	Relating to economic development programs.	Adjusts certain economic development program statutes related to the administration of the programs.	

HB 2408 A	Relating to funding programs at Oregon State University; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for allocation to Oregon State University to fund the agricultural experiment station and branch stations, the Oregon State University Extension Service and the Forest Research Laboratory.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2464 EN	Relating to correction of erroneous material in Oregon law.	Makes nonsubstantive and technical changes in Oregon law.	
HB 2692 INTRO	Relating to administrative law.	Modifies provisions relating to administrative law.	Rules (H)
HB 2858 A	Relating to emergency management; declaring an emergency.	Creates statewide preparedness offices in the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2950 A	Relating to amending land use planning goals; declaring an emergency.	Requires the Land Conservation and Development Commission to update the statewide land use planning goal relating to "citizen involvement" by rule by June 30, 2029.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2984 INTRO	Relating to funding for activities concerning water; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife out of the General Fund for deposit into the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3031 A	Relating to housing; declaring an emergency.	Establishes a program through which the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority may provide financial assistance for infrastructure to support housing development.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3084 INTRO	Relating to emergency management.	Directs specified state agencies to collaborate with local and regional officials to develop the CORE3 center.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3135 A	Relating to water conservation; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to award grants to soil and water conservation districts that operate in certain counties.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3143 INTRO	Relating to fostering coexistence with beavers; prescribing an effective date.	Establishes the Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program Subaccount in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3341 INTRO	Relating to water; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for deposit in the Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3382 A	Relating to administrative rules.	Directs the Secretary of State to maintain an online Oregon Rulemaking Information System.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3471 INTRO	Relating to performance audits; prescribing an effective date.	Directs the Division of Audits to conduct a performance audit of state agencies related to emergencies.	Legislative Audits (J)

HB 3492 A	Relating to seismic hazards; declaring an emergency.	Directs the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to study risks and issues relating to earthquake-induced toxic inhalation.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3527 A	Relating to water utility ratepayer assistance; prescribing an effective date.	Establishes the Public Drinking Water, Stormwater and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3528 INTRO	Relating to state financial administration; prescribing an effective date.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to the University of Oregon and Portland State University for water-related research and grants.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3569 A	Relating to rules advisory committees.	Requires an agency that appoints a rules advisory committee with regard to rules implementing legislation to invite certain legislators to participate on the committee as nonvoting members.	Rules (S)
HB 3571 A	Relating to water research institutes.	Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University for purposes of the Institute for Water and Watersheds.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3634 A	Relating to the water workforce; declaring an emergency.	Establishes the Water Workforce Program in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to support workforce development initiatives within the water workforce.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3638 INTRO	Relating to executive sessions.	Extends the time a person may file a written grievance that a governing body acted in violation of the rules and requirements for executive sessions.	Rules (H)
HB 3655 INTRO	Relating to lagoon wastewater treatment systems.	Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to develop a program for examination and certification of operators of lagoon wastewater treatment systems.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3883 INTRO	Relating to public meetings.	Requires public meetings to include a time for public comments at the start of each public meeting.	Rules (H)
HB 3887 INTRO	Relating to public meetings.	Defines a "work session" for purposes of public meetings.	Rules (H)
HB 5006 INTRO	Relating to state financial administration; declaring an emergency.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Emergency Board for allocations during the biennium.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 162 EN	Relating to cannabis; and declaring an emergency.	Authorizes the destruction of hoop houses when executing a search warrant to investigate the unlawful production of marijuana.	
SB 845 EN	Relating to water utilities regulated by the Public Utility Commission.	Authorizes the Public Utility Commission to order the sale of an incumbent water utility to another water utility or entity when the incumbent water utility is not able to provide safe and adequate service.	
SB 862 EN	Relating to fire protection.	Makes certain changes related to rural fire protection districts.	

SB 1006 INTRO	Relating to legislative measure introduction; prescribing an effective date.	Directs all state agencies, statewide elected officials and other entities to seek legislative changes only through legislative measures requested and introduced by members and committees of the Legislative Assembly.	Rules (S)
SB 1046 INTRO	Relating to voter registration through the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.	Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide the Secretary of State with electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence and citizenship information and electronic signature of each person who may qualify as an elector as prescribed by the secretary by rule.	Rules (S)
SB 1189 EN	Relating to treatment works within the North Santiam Basin; and declaring an emergency.	Creates a limited exception to water quality permitting requirements for a treatment works located within the North Santiam Basin.	
SB 5505 INTRO	Relating to state financial administration; declaring an emergency.	Establishes amounts authorized for issuance of general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, certificates of participation and other financing agreements for the biennium.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 5506 INTRO	Relating to state financial administration; declaring an emergency.	Limits for the six-year period beginning July 1, 2025, payment of expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by various state agencies for capital construction.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 5530 INTRO	Relating to state financial administration; declaring an emergency.	Maintains and reserves lottery revenues available to benefit public purposes during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, in the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2038 A	Relating to nuclear energy.	Requires the State Department of Energy to study nuclear energy, including legal pathways for the disposal of nuclear waste produced from nuclear energy.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2069 A	Relating to tribal consultation; declaring an emergency.	Establishes the Task Force on Tribal Consultation 2025 and specifies the task force membership.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2346 A	Relating to emergency management.	Creates the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management within the Department of Human Services.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2410 A	Relating to a small modular reactor energy facility demonstration project; providing that this Act shall be referred to the people for their approval or rejection.	Allows the Energy Facility Siting Council to issue a site certificate for a small modular reactor energy facility demonstration project in Umatilla County.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 2460 EN	Relating to local courts; and prescribing an effective date.	Updates, reorganizes and modifies the provisions governing appeals from justice courts that have not become courts of record.	

HB 2461 EN	Relating to remote location testimony.	Changes notice requirements and requirements related to facilities and technology for motions to allow remote location testimony.	
HB 2581 EN	Relating to emergency preparedness.	Expands the duties of the State Resilience Officer.	
HB 3121 A	Relating to community water systems; declaring an emergency.	Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to distribute moneys to the Oregon Association of Water Utilities to provide technical assistance, or enter into a contract with a third party to provide technical assistance, to address the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems, construct and equip a water utility training center and employ three staff to provide related support and resources.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3314 A	Relating to harmful algal blooms; prescribing an effective date.	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Human Access Project for harmful algal bloom mitigation.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3385 EN	Relating to public record fees.	Modifies the statute that governs the fee schedule for public records filed with a county clerk.	
HB 3529 INTRO	Relating to tribal relations training for the legislative branch; prescribing an effective date.	Directs the Executive Officer of the Commission on Indian Services to provide training on tribes and tribal relations at least once per calendar quarter.	Rules (H)
HB 3532 EN	Relating to offensive names; and declaring an emergency.	Directs the Oregon Geographic Names Board, in consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes, state and local government leaders, local landowners and other interested parties, to compile a list of geographic features in Oregon that bear offensive names.	
HB 3599 INTRO	Relating to Public Records Advisory Council.	Requires the Public Records Advisory Council to study public records.	Rules (H)
HB 3657 A	Relating to damage caused by wildlife; prescribing an effective date.	Directs the State Department of Agriculture to establish a wildlife damage prevention and compensation pilot program.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3788 A	Relating to public safety; declaring an emergency.	Directs the Oregon Business Development Department to develop and administer a program to issue grants to certain hospitals near a tsunami inundation zone to enable the hospitals to store fuel and water for emergency purposes.	Ways and Means (J)
HB 3803 A	Relating to government efficiency; prescribing an effective date.	Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to develop enterprise strategic workforce plans and to work with executive department agencies on implementation.	Ways and Means (J)

HB 3930 INTRO	Relating to the establishment of specific purpose accounts by public officials.	Permits a public official to establish a specific purpose account for purposes of expending donations of funds to the account for specified emergency expenses.	Rules (H)
HB 3932 A	Relating to protecting beavers.	Prohibits a person from taking a beaver on waters or watersheds that are classified in a certain manner or on public land that is within the watersheds or within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the waters.	
HB 3945 INTRO	Relating to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.	Limits duties of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission in conducting investigations, making findings and imposing penalties regarding violations of quorum requirements in public meetings law to intentional violations.	Rules (H)
SB 85 EN	Relating to wildfire risk reduction; and declaring an emergency.	Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Department of the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the State Forestry Department and the insurance industry, to evaluate and develop recommendations for community-based wildfire risk mitigation to reduce wildfire risks and increase insurance affordability and availability.	
SB 176 A	Relating to marijuana for medical use; prescribing an effective date.	Removes the requirement that the Oregon Health Authority establish a marijuana grow site registration system.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 222 A	Relating to the protection of salmon; declaring an emergency.	Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor the introduction of smallmouth bass into certain rivers and to support programs to eradicate smallmouth bass in certain rivers.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 347 A	Relating to farm use land used for illegal growing of marijuana; prescribing an effective date.	Disqualifies land from farm use special assessments upon a final civil penalty or judgment of conviction for the illegal growing of marijuana against the landowner or person in possession and control of the land.	Revenue (H)
SB 370 INTRO	Relating to administrative rules.	Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Director to distribute to interim committees of Legislative Assembly a summary of administrative rules that have been adopted in the previous two years that are relevant to the subject of the interim committee.	Rules (S)
SB 437 INTRO	Relating to public notices.	Expands the application of certain statutes requiring publication in a newspaper to allow publication in online news publications.	Rules (S)
SB 473 B	Relating to crime; declaring an emergency.	Prohibits the possession of a firearm by a person convicted of menacing a public official.	Rules (H)
SB 483 INTRO	Relating to administrative rules.	Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Director to study methods for legislative oversight of administrative rules.	Rules (S)
SB 830 EN	Relating to on-site septic systems; and prescribing an effective date.	Modifies provisions of the on-site septic system loan program to allow for grants.	

SB 835 A	Relating to tribal affiliation data; declaring an emergency.	Directs the Oregon Health Authority, in collaboration with the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon, to adopt rules governing the collection, storage and use of data on tribal affiliation.	Ways and Means (J)
SB 1077 INTRO	Relating to public records.	Requires the Public Records Advisory Council to study public records.	Rules (S)