

House Bill 2168

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water for Representatives Ken Helm, Mark Owens)

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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells an entity to create a program for helping households that rely on water wells or septic systems. The Act gives money for other purposes related to water wells and septic systems. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.0).

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.

Appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission out of the General Fund for distribution to the extension service for implementing the program.

Appropriates moneys to the Water Resources Department out of the General Fund for deposit into the Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund.

Appropriates moneys to the Department of Environmental Quality out of the General Fund for the septic system low-interest loan programs.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to rural water supplies; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) To protect public health, the environment and the quality and quantity**
5 **of ground water, and to increase the security of drinking water and wastewater, the Oregon**
6 **State University Extension Service shall establish a program to provide assistance to**
7 **households that rely on wells for drinking water or on septic systems for wastewater treat-**
8 **ment.**

9 **(2) Assistance under the program must include:**

10 **(a) Outreach.**

11 **(b) Research.**

12 **(c) Education.**

13 **(d) Advice on navigating available resources.**

14 **(e) Monitoring of wells and septic systems.**

15 **(3) Under the program, the extension service shall focus on providing assistance to**
16 **households in areas that are declared areas of ground water concern under ORS 468B.175.**

17 **SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for**
18 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,500,000, for**
19 **distribution to the Oregon State University Extension Service for the purpose of carrying**
20 **out the provisions of section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

21 **SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium**
22 **beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for deposit into the**
23 **Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund established by ORS 537.766.**

24 **SECTION 4. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Quality, for the**

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.

1 **biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for pur-**
2 **poses related to the septic system low-interest loan programs described in ORS 454.777 and**
3 **454.779.**

4 **SECTION 5. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
5 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
6 **on its passage.**

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