

# House Bill 3121

Sponsored by Representatives OWENS, HELM; Representatives BOICE, GOMBERG, MCINTIRE, RESCHKE, WRIGHT, Senators PHAM K, WEBER (Pre-session filed.)

## 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 would result in support for small and very small water systems. (Flesch Readability Score: 76.5).

Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to enter into a contract with 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.

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the department to carry out the contract.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to community water systems; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**  
5 **ated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July**  
6 **1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,500,000, for purposes of implementing**  
7 **section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

8 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall enter into a**  
9 **contract with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities to implement this section. The con-**  
10 **tract must include, but need not be limited to, a provision requiring the association to:**

11 (a) Provide technical assistance, or enter into a contract with a third party to provide  
12 technical assistance, to address the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small com-  
13 munity water systems as identified in the report generated under section 24, chapter 606,  
14 Oregon Laws 2023.

15 (b) Construct and procure equipment for a water utility training center to provide tech-  
16 nical, financial and managerial support and resources to individuals, including support and  
17 resources related to:

18 (A) Water supply reliability.

19 (B) Source and treated water quality.

20 (C) Utility board and operations management.

21 (D) Workforce development.

22 (E) Infrastructure.

23 (F) Emergency preparedness and response.

24 (G) Information technology, management and cyber security.

25 (H) Funding, financial stability and water rates.

26 (I) Regulations and safe drinking water standards.

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       **(J) Applying for and managing funds associated with state and federal funding programs.**

2       **(K) Assessing and supporting opportunities for emergency interties, system consolidation**  
3 **and regionalization.**

4       **(c) Employ three staff to provide support and resources to address the needs and vul-**  
5 **nerabilities of small and very small community water systems in this state.**

6       **(2) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall distribute moneys to the**  
7 **Oregon Association of Water Utilities for the purposes of carrying out subsection (1) of this**  
8 **section.**

9       **SECTION 3.** **Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

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

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