



Oregon Water Resources Department

2011-13 Bills

Bill #	Title and Purpose
HB 2133	<p>Electronic Transactions at the Water Resources Department</p> <p>Currently, statute requires that a number of department documents including initial reviews, proposed final orders, final orders, and other records must be passed back and forth between the Department and customers in hardcopy. This involves extra time and materials, as these documents are created and used in an electronic format today, and then transferred to hardcopy for mailing to customers. The Water Resources Department proposes to send and receive documents electronically when mutually agreed to with the customer. The Department would still plan to keep permits, certificates, and other final decisions in a hardcopy file for long-term record keeping. Department documents, whether electronic or hardcopy, would still be available as part of the public record.</p>
HB 2134	<p>Broadens the Category of Permits Involved in an Exchange</p> <p>Existing statute allows the “exchange” of water authorized under certificated water rights. The state’s goal is to use a commonsense approach to develop the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project. Morrow County’s County Line Water Improvement District (CLWID) uses water from the Umatilla River, authorized under a water right certificate. Water has been used since the 1970s to operate a groundwater recharge project. Umatilla County’s Echo Meadows plans to establish a groundwater recharge site as well, and plans to apply for a water right permit using “winter water” from the Columbia River. However, the CLWID is physically located closer to the Columbia River than Echo Meadows, and Echo Meadows is closer to the Umatilla River than is CLWID. If the two entities “exchanged” the water involved in these rights, the region would save millions of dollars in new infrastructure and operation costs. The bill proposes to amend ORS 540.533 to allow groundwater recharge permits to be involved in an exchange.</p>
HB 2135	<p>Reducing the Requirement for Multiple Newspaper Notices</p> <p>In many cases, the Department’s pending transactions must be noticed in local newspapers, some requiring multiple-week notices. This increases the time and materials involved, and does not take into account the fact that most members of the public now have access to information in electronic form. This bill would decrease statutory requirements from multiple weeks in a row to one, and affects 12 of the Water Resources Department’s statutes.</p>

Bill #	Title and Purpose
SB 126	<p>CWRE Training Ensure that Certified Water Right Examiners (CWREs) receive continuing education in water right rules and requirements, and ensure that the state has the ability to address problems that arise in CWRE work. This concept would clean up and modernize statutes related to CWRE training.</p>
SB 127	<p>Water Resources Department's Ability to Enter into MOUs Although it has broad authority, the Water Resources Department does not have the specific authority to enter into Memoranda of Understanding with other entities. Other states agencies in Oregon have already sought and received specific authority to do so. The Department seeks specific authority under "Powers of the Director/Department" (ORS 536) to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) with other entities.</p>
SB 168	<p>Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement Fund This concept requests \$3.4 million in lottery revenue bonds to offset economic losses resulting from the KBRA, including: lost property tax payments upon retirement of four hydroelectric dams and reductions in property values, business opportunities, and agricultural water rights and water deliveries.</p>

For More Information Contact:

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