

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Establishes Task Force on Drought Emergency Response as nonlegislative task force. Requires task force to research and evaluate potential tools to prepare for or deal with drought emergencies. Requires task force to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2016.

Sunsets task force December 31, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Task Force on Drought Emergency Response; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1)(a) The Task Force on Drought Emergency Response**
6 **is established. The task force shall consist of no fewer than 11 and no**
7 **more than 15 members.**

8 (b) **The President of the Senate shall appoint one member who has**
9 **the qualifications described in subsection (2) of this section.**

10 (c) **The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member who has**
11 **the qualifications described in subsection (2) of this section.**

12 (d) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one**
13 **member who has the qualifications described in subsection (2) of this**
14 **section.**

15 (e) **The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member who has**
16 **the qualifications described in subsection (2) of this section.**

17 (f) **The Governor shall appoint no fewer than seven members and**
18 **no more than 11 members who have the qualifications described in**

1 subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

2 (2) The members appointed to the task force must be individuals
3 who have expertise in matters related to drought emergencies or
4 drought emergency response or who represent private or public sectors
5 having an interest in matters related to drought emergencies or
6 drought emergency response.

7 (3) The members appointed by the Governor:

8 (a) Must include, but need not be limited to, representatives of the
9 conservation community, counties, Indian tribes, industrial water us-
10 ers, irrigated agriculture, irrigation districts and municipal water
11 suppliers; and

12 (b) Be from geographically diverse areas of this state including, at
13 a minimum, the western, central and eastern areas of Oregon.

14 (4) The task force shall research and evaluate potential tools to
15 prepare for or deal with drought emergencies. The activities of the
16 task force may include, but need not be limited to:

17 (a) Evaluating the sufficiency of existing tools to address short-
18 term drought response needs and recommending additional tools to
19 address short-term drought response needs;

20 (b) Identifying options to minimize the impact of drought on agri-
21 cultural, municipal and other interests;

22 (c) Identifying options to minimize the impact of drought on fish
23 and wildlife;

24 (d) Identifying tools to assist small water providers in developing
25 water management, conservation or efficiency plans and in anticipat-
26 ing drought risks and responses;

27 (e) Identifying the data and resources necessary for anticipating
28 drought and drought impacts on the economy, communities and the
29 environment; or

30 (f) Recommending improvements in information sharing necessary
31 for enabling the public, water users and recreational in-stream users

1 to understand drought conditions and to assist in efforts to mitigate
2 or adapt to drought.

3 (5) A majority of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
4 transaction of business.

5 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-
6 jority of the task force.

7 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-
8 person.

9 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor may make an
10 appointment to become immediately effective.

11 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the
12 call of the chairperson or of a majority of the task force.

13 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of
14 the task force.

15 (11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in
16 ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an
17 interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural re-
18 sources no later than November 1, 2016. The task force shall provide
19 a copy of the report to the Water Resources Commission.

20 (12) The Water Resources Department shall provide staff support
21 to the task force.

22 (13) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation,
23 but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other ex-
24 penses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in
25 the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for ex-
26 penses shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the department for
27 purposes of the task force.

28 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
29 directed to assist the task force in the performance of duties of the
30 task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to
31 confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the

1 **task force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

2 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2016 Act is repealed on December 31,**
3 **2016.**

4 **SECTION 3. This 2016 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
5 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
6 **clared to exist, and this 2016 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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