

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Changes water management and conservation plan approval condition for extension of time to construct works or perfect right for municipal use of water.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to community water supply; creating new provisions; amending ORS  
3 537.230 and 537.630; and declaring an emergency.

4 Whereas municipal water systems provide crucial water supply that sup-  
5 ports manufacturing, the food processing, leisure, hospitality and health care  
6 industries and other businesses and that can accommodate future economic  
7 and job creation opportunities; and

8 Whereas municipalities are responsible for providing services to all busi-  
9 nesses and other consumers within the service territory and for forecasting  
10 future demands for water; and

11 Whereas a stable, ample water supply for municipalities is necessary to  
12 meet drinking water, sanitation, fire suppression and other public health and  
13 safety needs; and

14 Whereas municipal water systems represent approximately six percent of  
15 the out-of-stream water demand in Oregon, but provide drinking water to  
16 approximately 3.3 million people making up approximately 88 percent of  
17 Oregon's population; and

18 Whereas the population of Oregon according to the 2010 federal decennial  
19 census was 3.8 million people and is anticipated to approach 5.4 million  
20 people by 2040; now, therefore,

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

2 **SECTION 1.** ORS 537.230 is amended to read:

3 537.230. (1) Except for a holder of a permit for municipal use, the holder  
4 of a water right permit shall prosecute the construction of any proposed ir-  
5 rigation or other work with reasonable diligence and complete the con-  
6 struction within a reasonable time, as fixed in the permit by the Water  
7 Resources Department, not to exceed five years from the date of approval.

8 (2)(a) **As used in this subsection, “undeveloped portion of the**  
9 **permit” means the portion of a water right permit that is the differ-**  
10 **ence between the maximum rate or duty of water authorized by the**  
11 **permit and the maximum rate or duty of water diverted for beneficial**  
12 **use as of the later of:**

13 (A) **December 11, 2013; or**

14 (B) **The time specified in the permit, or in the last-approved exten-**  
15 **sion of time, to perfect the water right.**

16 (b) The holder of a permit for municipal use shall commence and complete  
17 the construction of any proposed works within 20 years from the date on  
18 which a permit for municipal use is issued under ORS 537.211. The con-  
19 struction must proceed with reasonable diligence and be completed within  
20 the time specified in the permit, not to exceed 20 years. However, the de-  
21 partment may order and allow an extension of time to complete construction  
22 or to perfect a water right beyond the time specified in the permit under the  
23 following conditions:

24 [(a)] (A) The holder shows good cause. In determining the extension, the  
25 department shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS  
26 539.010 (5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the  
27 project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection  
28 of the right;

29 [(b)] *The extension of time is conditioned to provide that the holder may*  
30 *divert water beyond the maximum rate diverted for beneficial use before the*  
31 *extension only upon approval by the department of a water management and*

1 *conservation plan; and]*

2 **(B) The extension of time is conditioned to provide that the holder**  
3 **may divert the undeveloped portion of the permit only upon approval**  
4 **by the department of a water management and conservation plan; and**

5 [(c)] (C) For the first extension **of time** issued after June 29, 2005, for a  
6 permit for municipal use issued before November 2, 1998, the department  
7 finds that the undeveloped portion of the permit is conditioned to maintain,  
8 in the portions of waterways affected by water use under the permit, the  
9 persistence of fish species listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered under  
10 state or federal law. The department shall base its finding on existing data  
11 and upon the advice of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. An ex-  
12 isting fish protection agreement between the permit holder and a state or  
13 federal agency that includes conditions to maintain the persistence of any  
14 listed fish species in the affected portion of the waterway is conclusive for  
15 purposes of the finding.

16 (3) Except as provided in ORS 537.240 and 537.248 and subsection (2) of  
17 this section, the Water Resources Department, for good cause shown, shall  
18 order and allow an extension of time, including an extension beyond the  
19 five-year limit established in subsection (1) of this section within which ir-  
20 rigation or other works shall be completed or the right perfected. In deter-  
21 mining the extension, the department shall give due weight to the  
22 considerations described under ORS 539.010 (5) and to whether other gov-  
23 ernmental requirements relating to the project have significantly delayed  
24 completion of construction or perfection of the right.

25 (4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section and ORS 537.409,  
26 upon completion of beneficial use as required under this section, the  
27 permittee shall hire a water right examiner certified under ORS 537.798 to  
28 survey the appropriation. Within one year after application of water to a  
29 beneficial use or the beneficial use date allowed in the permit, the permittee  
30 shall submit a map of the survey as required by the Water Resources De-  
31 partment, which shall accompany the request for a water right certificate

1 submitted to the department under ORS 537.250. If any property described in  
2 the permit is not included in the request for a water right certificate, the  
3 permittee shall state the identity of the record owner of that property.

4 (5) The Water Resources Director may waive the requirement under sub-  
5 section (4) of this section that a permittee hire a water right examiner cer-  
6 tified under ORS 537.798 if:

7 (a) The permit is a supplemental water right that shares the same dis-  
8 tribution system and same place of use as the primary water right; and

9 (b) The department determines that there is sufficient information in the  
10 records of the department to determine proof of beneficial use.

11 (6) Notwithstanding ORS 537.410, for purposes of obtaining a water right  
12 certificate under ORS 537.250 for a supplemental water right, the permittee  
13 shall have a facility capable of handling the full rate and duty of water re-  
14 quested from the supplemental source and be otherwise ready, willing and  
15 able to use the amount of water requested, up to the amount of water ap-  
16 proved in the water right permit. To obtain a certificate for a supplemental  
17 water right, the permittee is not required to have actually used water from  
18 the supplemental source if:

19 (a) Water was available from the source of the primary water right and  
20 the primary water right was used pursuant to the terms of the primary water  
21 right; or

22 (b) The nonuse of water from the supplemental source occurred during a  
23 period of time within which the exercise of the supplemental water right  
24 permit was not necessary due to climatic conditions.

25 **SECTION 2.** ORS 537.630 is amended to read:

26 537.630. (1) Except for the holder of a permit for municipal use, the holder  
27 of a permit issued pursuant to ORS 537.625 shall prosecute the construction  
28 of a well or other means of developing and securing the ground water with  
29 reasonable diligence and complete the construction within a reasonable time  
30 fixed in the permit by the Water Resources Department, not to exceed five  
31 years after the date of approval of the application. However, the department,

1 for good cause shown, shall order and allow an extension of time, including  
2 an extension beyond the five-year period, for the completion of the well or  
3 other means of developing and securing the ground water or for complete  
4 application of water to beneficial use. In determining the extension, the de-  
5 partment shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS  
6 539.010 (5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the  
7 project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection  
8 of the right.

9 **(2)(a) As used in this subsection, “undeveloped portion of the**  
10 **permit” means the portion of a water right permit that is the differ-**  
11 **ence between the maximum rate or duty of water authorized by the**  
12 **permit and the maximum rate or duty of water diverted for beneficial**  
13 **use as of the later of:**

14 **(A) December 11, 2013; or**

15 **(B) The time specified in the permit, or in the last-approved exten-**  
16 **sion of time, to perfect the water right.**

17 **(b)** The holder of a permit for municipal use shall commence and complete  
18 the construction of any proposed works within 20 years from the date on  
19 which the permit for municipal use is issued under ORS 537.625. The con-  
20 struction must proceed with reasonable diligence and be completed within  
21 the time specified in the permit, not to exceed 20 years. However, the de-  
22 partment may order and allow an extension of time to complete construction  
23 or to perfect a water right beyond the time specified in the permit under the  
24 following conditions:

25 *[(a)]* **(A)** The holder shows good cause. In determining the extension, the  
26 department shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS  
27 539.010 (5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the  
28 project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection  
29 of the right;

30 *[(b)]* *The extension of time is conditioned to provide that the holder may*  
31 *divert water beyond the maximum rate diverted for beneficial use before the*

1 *extension only upon approval by the department of a water management and*  
2 *conservation plan; and]*

3 **(B) The extension of time is conditioned to provide that the holder**  
4 **may divert the undeveloped portion of the permit only upon approval**  
5 **by the department of a water management and conservation plan; and**

6 [(c)] **(C)** For the first extension **of time** issued after June 29, 2005, for a  
7 permit for municipal use issued before November 2, 1998, the department  
8 finds that the undeveloped portion of the permit is conditioned to maintain,  
9 in the portions of waterways affected by water use under the permit, the  
10 persistence of fish species listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered under  
11 state or federal law. The department shall base its finding on existing data  
12 and upon the advice of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. An ex-  
13 isting fish protection agreement between the permit holder and a state or  
14 federal agency that includes conditions to maintain the persistence of any  
15 listed fish species in the affected portion of the waterway is conclusive for  
16 purposes of the finding.

17 (3) If the construction of any well or other means of developing and se-  
18 curing the ground water is completed after the date of approval of the ap-  
19 plication for a permit under ORS 537.625, within 30 days after the  
20 completion, or if the construction is completed before the date of approval,  
21 within 30 days after the date of approval, the permit holder shall file a cer-  
22 tificate of completion with the Water Resources Department, disclosing:

23 (a) The depth to the water table;

24 (b) The depth, diameter and type of each well, and the kind and amount  
25 of the casing;

26 (c) The capacity of the well pump in gallons per minute and the drawdown  
27 thereof;

28 (d) The identity of the record owner of any property that was described  
29 in the application for a permit under ORS 537.625 but is not included in the  
30 certificate of completion; and

31 (e) Any other information the department considers necessary.

1 (4) Upon completion of beneficial use necessary to secure the ground  
2 water as required under this section, the permit holder shall hire a water  
3 right examiner certified under ORS 537.798 to survey the appropriation.  
4 Within one year after applying the water to beneficial use or the beneficial  
5 use date allowed in the permit, the permit holder shall submit the survey as  
6 required by the Water Resources Department to the department along with  
7 the certificate of completion required under subsection (3) of this section. If  
8 any property described in the permit is not included in the request for a  
9 water right certificate, the permittee shall state the identity of the record  
10 owner of that property.

11 (5) After the department has received a certificate of completion and a  
12 copy of the survey as required by subsections (3) and (4) of this section that  
13 show, to the satisfaction of the department, that an appropriation has been  
14 perfected in accordance with the provisions of ORS 537.505 to 537.795 and  
15 537.992, the department shall issue a ground water right certificate of the  
16 same character as that described in ORS 537.700. The certificate shall be  
17 recorded and transmitted to the applicant as provided in ORS 537.700.

18 (6) The procedure for cancellation of a permit shall be as provided in ORS  
19 537.260.

20 (7) Notwithstanding ORS 537.410, for purposes of obtaining a water right  
21 certificate under subsection (5) of this section for a supplemental water  
22 right, the permittee shall have a facility capable of handling the full rate  
23 and duty of water requested from the supplemental source and be otherwise  
24 ready, willing and able to use the amount of water requested, up to the  
25 amount of water approved in the water right permit. To obtain a certificate  
26 for a supplemental water right, the permittee is not required to have actually  
27 used water from the supplemental source if:

28 (a) Water was available from the source of the primary water right and  
29 the primary water right was used pursuant to the terms of the primary water  
30 right; or

31 (b) The nonuse of water from the supplemental source occurred during a

1 period of time within which the exercise of the supplemental water right  
2 permit was not necessary due to climatic conditions.

3 **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 537.230 and 537.630 by sections**  
4 **1 and 2 of this 2016 Act apply to extensions of time that the Water**  
5 **Resources Department approves on or after the effective date of this**  
6 **2016 Act to authorize construction or perfection during periods that**  
7 **begin before, on or after the effective date of this 2016 Act.**

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

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