

CHAPTER 80

AN ACT

HB 4113

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The Governor shall appoint no fewer than seven members and no more than 11 members who have the qualifications described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

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

(3) The members appointed by the Governor:

(a) Must include, but need not be limited to, representatives of the conservation community, counties, Indian tribes, industrial water users, agriculture, irrigation districts and municipal water suppliers; and

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

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

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

(b) Identifying options to minimize the impact of drought on agricultural, municipal and other interests;

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

(d) Identifying tools to assist small water providers in developing water management, conservation or efficiency plans and in anticipating drought risks and responses;

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

(f) Recommending improvements in information sharing necessary for enabling the public, water users and recreational in-stream users to understand drought conditions and to assist in efforts to mitigate or adapt to drought.

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

(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the task force.

(7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

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

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$25,000, which may be expended for Task Force on Drought Emergency Response purposes.

SECTION 4. This 2016 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-

**clared to exist, and this 2016 Act takes effect on
its passage.**

Approved by the Governor March 29, 2016
Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 29, 2016
Effective date March 29, 2016
