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Oregon House Passes Bill to Ensure Transparency About Safety of Drinking Water for Renters in High-Risk Areas

SALEM, Ore.— Today, the Oregon House of Representatives passed [HB 3525B](#), a renter right-to-know bill that ensures families renting homes in groundwater contamination zones are informed about the safety of their drinking water.

HB 3525B requires landlords in state-designated Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA) to test well water for dangerous contaminants such as arsenic, *E. coli*, nitrates, and lead. If contaminants exceed federal limits, annual testing is required; otherwise, testing occurs every four years. The bill also requires landlords to share test results with current and prospective tenants and directs laboratories to forward results to the Oregon Health Authority to connect impacted households with health resources.

“Every Oregonian deserves to know if the water coming out of their tap is safe,” said **Rep. Annessa Hartman (D-Gladstone)**, the bill’s chief sponsor. “This is a modest but meaningful step to bring truth and transparency to some of the most impacted communities in our state.”

The bill is limited in scope to officially designated GWMA, where water quality issues have been long documented and public health concerns are ongoing.

“This has been a long time coming,” said **Rep. John Lively (D-Springfield)**, who first introduced a version of the bill in 2017. “For years, we’ve known that renters in these areas were being left in the dark while homeowners had access to water quality testing during property transfers. I’m proud to see this commonsense policy finally advance.”

HB 3525B now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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