

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Appropriates moneys to Department of Environmental Quality to award grant for on-site septic system low-interest loan programs and to cover related administrative costs.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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Relating to on-site septic system financing; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas in 2016 the Legislative Assembly enacted ORS 454.779, which directs the Department of Environmental Quality to award grants for developing and administering loan programs to provide low-interest loans for the repair, replacement, upgrade or evaluation of residential or small business on-site septic systems; and

Whereas since 2016, the Clean Water Loan program funded by a grant from the department under ORS 454.779 has served over 145 families, financing projects that are now treating an estimated total of 18 million gallons of wastewater annually; and

Whereas nearly one out of every three families served by the Clean Water Loan program has a family income that falls below 80 percent of the county's area median income; and

Whereas demand remains high for low-interest loans for the repair, replacement, upgrade or evaluation of residential or small business on-site septic systems; and

Whereas the department estimates that over 45,000 septic systems fail each year; now, therefore,

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

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 1.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
2 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
3 Quality, for the biennium ending July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund,
4 the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purposes of:

5 (1) Not later than September 1, 2020, awarding a grant under ORS
6 454.779 in an amount of not less than \$1,950,000; and

7 (2) Covering administrative costs necessary to implement ORS
8 454.779.

9 **SECTION 2.** This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
10 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
11 clared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect on its passage.

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