

SB 99 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Smith DB

Action Date: 05/10/17
Action: Do Pass.
Vote: 7-0-2-0
Yeas: 7 - Barnhart, Helm, Holvey, Marsh, Power, Reschke, Smith DB
Exc: 2 - Bentz, Johnson
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Senate confirmation of the Director of the State Department of Energy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Opportunity to connect with Legislative Assembly and public
- Director confirmation was required previously

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) was first established in 1975 in response to the national energy crisis. Its statutory mission is to promote the efficient use of energy and advocate for the use and development of new renewable energy. In the 41 years since its creation, it has been assigned a variety of energy-related responsibilities, including some regulatory functions. The Department is structured in the following four operating divisions and a supportive administrative/central services division:

- Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Energy Planning and Innovation
- Energy Development Services
- Energy Facility Siting

There are currently 84 permanent Department employees. The 2015-2017 operating budget is \$37.4 million with revenue from program fees, federal dollars and \$13.1 million assessed on energy suppliers. The Department receives no General Fund revenue.

Senate Bill 99 would require Senate confirmation of the Director of the Oregon Department of Energy.