

SB 1537 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Energy Commission as a policy and rulemaking body for the Oregon Department of Energy. Transfers specified duties of the Department to the Commission and modifies the general duties of the Department. Makes modifications to state energy policy. Directs the Department to develop a statewide strategic energy plan, present a draft version of the plan to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020, and directs the Commission to adopt the plan no later than January 1, 2021 and to periodically update the plan. Requires the Department to provide a biennial comprehensive energy report to the Governor and Legislative Assembly. Becomes operative July 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) was established in 1975 in response to the national energy crisis. Its mission is to promote the efficient use of energy and to advocate for the use and development of new renewable energy. In the 41 years since its creation, ODOE has been assigned a variety of energy-related responsibilities, including regulatory functions. The Department is structured around four operative divisions: Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness; Energy Planning and Innovation; Energy Development Services; and Energy Facility Siting. The Department is overseen by a Director who is appointed by the Governor. The Department receives no General Fund revenue.

Senate Bill 1537 establishes the Oregon Energy Commission as the policy and rulemaking body for State Department of Energy. The measure requires the department to develop a statewide strategic plan, and transfers certain duties of the Department and Director of Department to the Commission.