

SB 451 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/12, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes eligibility for renewable energy certificates for facilities that generate electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste and became operational before January 1, 1995, if such facilities register with Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System at any time.

No subsequent referral

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Adds facility generating electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste to provision making a facility eligible for renewable energy certificates if the owner or operator registers the facility with the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System or other regional system or trading program designated by the Oregon Department of Energy before January 1, 2011.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) directs Oregon utilities to source a specified percentage of their retail electricity sales with generation from qualified renewable resources by set dates. ORS 469A.130 requires the Oregon Department of Energy to establish a system of renewable energy certificates (RECs) that can be used by an electric utility or service supplier to establish compliance with the applicable RPS. The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) issues RECs for Oregon-certified energy facilities that generate qualifying renewable power. Facilities receive one REC for one megawatt-hour of qualifying renewable energy they deliver to the grid. Utilities and electricity service suppliers purchase and then retire these RECs to demonstrate compliance with the RPS. The legislature added facilities that generate electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste as an eligible generation source under the RPS in 2010; these facilities are eligible for RECs for electricity generated on or after January 1, 2011.

Senate Bill 451 would establish eligibility for renewable energy certificates for facilities that generate electricity from the direct combustion of municipal solid waste and became operational before January 1, 1995, if the facility had been registered with WREGIS at any time.