

**SB 451 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Conditions eligibility for renewable energy certificates, for specified electricity generating facilities, on registration with Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces the measure. Conditions eligibility for facilities that combust municipal solid waste on registration with Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System, or or after January 1, 2011.

-2 Conditions eligibility for facilities that combust municipal solid waste on generating electricity exclusively from direct combustion of biogenic material.

**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.