

SB 1044 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes goals to promote zero-emission vehicle use. Directs the Department of Energy to report on comprehensive assessment regarding zero-emission vehicles and the state's progress on goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Allows the Public Utility Commission to approve public benefit proposals from public utilities if the proposal meets specified criteria. Authorizes state agencies to contract with a vendor, including a public utility, to install devices that delivers electricity to zero-emission vehicles. Sets requirements for state agencies to purchase or lease zero-emission vehicles for state agency fleet. Authorizes school districts receiving funding from an electric company or Oregon Community Power to use funds for energy or fleet audits, for purchasing or leasing zero-emission vehicles and for purchasing or installing electric vehicle charging stations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Electric vehicles play important role in meeting state's greenhouse gas reduction goals
- Transportation sector is biggest source of greenhouse gas remissions in Oregon
- Electric vehicles are cheaper to operate than gas-powered vehicles
- Increase in sales of electric vehicles in recent years
- Electric vehicle use in urban areas compared to use in rural areas
- Applicability of electric vehicles to transit and freight operations
- Whether mandates on automobile companies to sell certain numbers of electric vehicles are productive
- Length of time required to completely recycle the state's vehicle fleet
- How to change public perception about electric vehicles
- Other types of alternative fuels

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Replaces original measure. Establishes legislative findings related to transportation electrification. Directs Department of Energy to submit biennial report on adoption of zero-emission vehicles and greenhouse gas reductions, including recommendations if Department determines state is not on course to meet its reduction goals. Directs state agencies to make 25 percent of new light-duty vehicle purchases zero-emission vehicles, with exceptions, and to include information on these purchases in annual reports. Expands requirement to all vehicles purchased by 2029. Allows funds received by school districts from electric companies to be used for fleet audits and allows districts that have completed fleet audits to purchase zero-emission vehicles and charging stations.

BACKGROUND:

Executive Order 17-21 established Oregon's goal of reaching 50,000 registered electric vehicles in the state by 2020. Oregon is between two and four times the national average for electric vehicle ownership. As of 2018, Oregon had approximately 22,280 registered electric vehicles and 1,272 public chargers. In 2013, Oregon was one of eight states that established the Multi-State Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) task force to support state ZEV program implementation. House Bill 2017 (2017) directed the Department of Environmental Quality to create a rebate program for battery electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles starting in 2018. The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP) is a cash rebate program for the purchase or lease of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Federal incentives are available for the purchase of eligible vehicles, and some utility companies offer local financial incentives. The state has encouraged the proliferation of electric vehicles by

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partnering with California, Washington, and British Columbia to create the West Coast Electric Highway, which is a connected network of electric vehicle charging stations on Interstate 5. The corridor currently has 44 charging stations in Oregon that have powered approximately three million all-electric miles. Oregon's electric vehicle strategy outlines implementation the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, expanding charging infrastructure, and increasing resources and information for the public.

Senate Bill 1044 establishes goals to promote zero-emission vehicles, requires the biennial report assessing the progress of the state's zero-emission vehicle goals, and sets requirements for states agencies to purchase or lease zero-emission vehicles for fleets.