

SB 338 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 1/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases maximum size of renewable electrical generation system installation that limited renewable energy technician (LRET) may make from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC. Allows LRET to install all DC wiring and DC connections up to load side of inverter and all AC wiring and AC connections to termination of factory-provided interconnecting cables outside of distribution panelboard. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies that size of installation is calculated as sum of capacity as reported by manufacturer. Allows LRET to make installations of AC wiring and AC connections to termination of factory-provided cables on exterior of structure not less than 10 feet from system and extending not more than three feet within an accessible space of structure, but not including connection to the structure's wiring system. Requires distance of AC installation to be specified in rule. Removes effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law prohibits a person from performing work on an electrical installation without holding the proper license issued by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The department administers a series of individual electrical licenses, each of which grants qualified applicants a specified scope of work. A General Journeyman Electrician (Journeyman) license requires completion of a four-year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on all types of electrical installations. A Limited Renewable Energy Technician (LRET) license requires completion of a two-year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on renewable electrical systems not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC up to the load side of the inverter. A Journeyman or other licensee is required to complete the AC side of a renewable energy installation.

Senate Bill 338 increases the maximum size of renewable energy systems on which an LRET may perform work from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC, including all DC wiring and connections up to the load side of an inverter and all AC wiring and connections to the termination of factory-provided interconnecting cables that are outside of a distribution panelboard.