

SB 542 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes nine member Task Force on Vehicle Charging Stations (Task Force). Requires President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to each appoint two nonvoting members to act in advisory capacity. Requires Governor to appoint the remaining seven members as follows: two members who represent highway users; one member from the Department of Transportation; one member from the State Parks and Recreation Department; and one member from the Public Utility Commission. Directs Task Force to investigate installing vehicle charging stations across Oregon on public property and make recommendations for any changes necessary in state statutes that can promote installation and use of vehicle charging stations. Requires Task Force to submit report to the Joint Committee on Transportation no later than September 15, 2022. Requires ODOT to provide staff support. Sunsets December 31, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Every major automobile manufacturer has announced plans to release multiple makes and models of plug-in electric vehicles. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), drivers throughout the nation, consider one of the biggest challenges to choosing to drive an electric vehicle is the availability of a reliable network of charging facilities. ODOT helped develop the first major long distance DC Fast Charger corridor in the United States, commonly referred to as the West Coast Electric Highway. The West Coast Electric Highway is a network electric vehicle DC fast charging and Level 2 charging stations along the West Coast, from British Columbia to the California-Mexico border. Charging stations are located every 25 – 50 miles along Interstate 5, Highway 99, and other major roadways in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California.

Senate Bill 542 establishes the Task Force on Vehicle Charging Stations (Task Force) and directs the Task Force to investigate and report on installing vehicle charging stations across Oregon on public property and make recommendations for any changes necessary in state statutes that can promote installation and use of vehicle charging stations.