

SB 314 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to allow an electric company to recover costs from retail electricity consumers for prudent infrastructure measures to support transportation electrification (EV Infrastructure) if it is consistent with and meets certain requirements. Stipulates that EV Infrastructure measures taken by electric company are a benefit to the customer if they can be reasonably anticipated to support reductions of greenhouse gas emissions over time, and provide customer benefits that include: distribution or transmission management; revenues from charging to offset fixed costs; system efficiencies or other economic values; or increased customer choice. Requires PUC to consider certain factors when considering expenditures for an EV infrastructure program that is not an infrastructure measure. Requires that if an electric company is undertaking measures that involve the installation of one or more charging stations, the company must allow for customer choice in the selection of the type of electric vehicle charging station. Authorizes electric company to prequalify multiple types of electric vehicle charging stations.

Authorizes PUC to allow natural gas utilities to recover costs from retail natural gas customers for prudent investments in or expenses related to infrastructure measures that support adoption and service of alternative forms of transportation vehicles if certain criteria are met. Stipulates that an investment or expense related to alternative transportation infrastructure measures taken by natural gas company are a benefit to customer if they can be reasonably anticipated to support adoption of alternative vehicles powered by compressed natural gas or hydrogen, support reductions of greenhouse gas emissions over time, and provide benefit to natural gas utility system, which may include: distribution or transmission management benefits; system efficiencies or other economic values; or revenues from fueling alternative forms of transportation offset utilities fixed costs.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 978 (2017) directed the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a public process for investigating how developing industry trends, technologies, and policy drivers impact the existing regulatory system and incentives the PUC currently employs. One of the items identified by some participants in the SB 978 (2017) report was that an efficient way to reduce emissions is by electric utilities working to reduce emissions outside of the electric sector through beneficial electrification of other fuel uses, such as electric vehicles and other forms of alternative transportation.

Senate Bill 314 would authorize, if certain criteria are met, the PUC to allow electric companies to recover certain costs for prudent investments in infrastructure measures related to transportation electrification and natural gas utilities to recover certain costs for prudent investments in infrastructure measures related to alternative forms

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

of transportation.

PRELIMINARY