

HB 2063 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes requirement that person seeking exemption from requirement to obtain site certificate for standby generation facility request exemption from Energy Facility Siting Council (Council). Prohibits Council from requiring a person who proposes to construct or enlarge an energy facility to request an exemption for standby generation facility that 1) has received local land use approval under a comprehensive plan and land use regulations of the affected local government and the facility complies with all statewide planning goals and applicable rules of the Land Conservation and Development Commission; 2) the standby generators have been approved by the Department of Environmental Quality as having complied with all applicable air and water quality requirements; 3) and which are electrically incapable of being interconnected to the transmission grid. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Authorizes Council to take necessary action to implement Act prior to January 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Prohibits Energy Facility Siting Council from requiring a person who operates or proposes to construct or enlarge an energy facility to request for exemption for standby generation facility.

BACKGROUND:

Large energy facilities builders in Oregon must apply for a site certificate from the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) before they can begin construction. The certificate or amended certificate authorizes the applicant to construct, operate, and retire the facility subject to the conditions set forth in the site certificate or amended site certificate. Site certificates or amended site certificates last for the duration of the life of the facility. Electric power generators that are not connected to the electricity grid and act as backup standby generators must secure permits for operations, including limits on operational hours to minimize air pollution emissions, from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and local governments, and those that are over 25 megawatts also need to apply for a site certificate or an exemption from the Council.

House Bill 2063 would remove the requirement that operators seeking exemption from the requirement to obtain a site certificate for a standby generation facility request exemption from the Council. The bill would prohibit the Council from requiring a person who proposes to construct or enlarge an energy facility to submit a request for exemption for standby generation facility if certain criteria are met.