

SB 14 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits manufacturer from selling, or offering for sale a covered product in the state unless it is predominantly composed of recyclable plastics included on list established by the Environmental Quality Commission or a covered product that is labeled with brand included in an approved plan for plastics stewardship organization. Requires stewardship organization to prepare and submit plan to DEQ for the development and implementation of a plastic stewardship program. Makes requirement for plan and plan operation. Requires DEQ to approve plan if it is complete, meets certain requirements and organization pays fee. Requires stewardship organization to submit annual reports to DEQ. Requires DEQ to establish and collect certain fees: fixed one time fee to cover costs of reviewing plan and annual fee to administer program. Establishes Plastics Stewardship Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Department of Environmental Quality for purposes of Act. Imposes penalty for violation by manufacturer or stewardship organization of program provisions not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each day of violation. Imposes penalty for violation of program provisions by retailer not to exceed \$100 per day for each day of violation. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2018, the Chinese government banned the import of certain plastic and paper grades and set tighter contamination standards for paper. The loss of China's markets disrupted recycling systems worldwide. In Oregon, communities had to make changes to their recycling collection programs, which included: increased customer rates, suspending recycling, or removing items from programs. In some cases, materials that were collected for recycling were disposed.

In May 2018, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) formed the Recycling Steering Committee (RSC) with the intention of working with stakeholders to modernize Oregon's recycling systems. The RSC met from May of 2018 through September 2020.

Senate Bill 14 establishes a product stewardship program for plastic packaging and plastic food serviceware.