

HB 2479 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of “global warming” to include certain aerosol air contaminants, including black carbon. Directs Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to estimate black carbon emissions and contribution of those emissions in Oregon to climate change. Requires the department to provide results and recommend mitigation strategies in report to Environmental Quality Commission and to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to track estimated human-caused black carbon emissions in this state and estimate the net impact of human-caused black carbon sources on climate change. Requires DEQ to use estimated black carbon emissions to assist with the duties and functions of the department related to climate change. Requires DEQ to provide the results of the estimated black carbon emissions in a report—including recommendations for strategies to mitigate black carbon emissions and may include recommendations for legislation—to the Environmental Quality Commission and to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment no later than September 15, 2022. Repeals black carbon emissions report requirement January 2, 2023.

- *FISCAL: Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

BACKGROUND:

Black carbon is a climate pollutant that results from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and burning of other substances. Globally, the largest sources of black carbon are from household biomass burning and transportation, especially from diesel engines, and is a short-lived pollutant, which remains in the atmosphere for a short period of time. Black carbon is a component of fine particulate matter air pollution that can have negative health and environmental impacts in areas where it is emitted. House Bill 2479 would include black carbon and certain aerosol air contaminants in the definition of global warming and require the Department of Environmental Quality to estimate black carbon emissions and contribution of those emissions in Oregon to climate change.