

SB 338 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 4/26, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases maximum size of renewable electrical generation system installation that limited renewable energy technician (LRET) may make from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC. Clarifies that size of installation is calculated as sum of capacity as reported by manufacturer. Allows LRET to make installations of AC wiring and AC connections to termination of factory-provided cables on exterior of structure extending a maximum of 10 feet from the renewable energy system, or a longer distance if specified by the Electrical and Elevator Board by rule, and not more than three feet within an accessible space of a structure, but not including connection to the structure's wiring system. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Revenue: No Impact

Fiscal: Minimal impact

Senate vote: 27-0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proposal result of compromise
- Evolution of solar panel technology

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law prohibits a person from performing work on an electrical installation without holding the proper license issued by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The Department administers a series of individual electrical licenses, each of which grants qualified applicants a specified scope of work. A general journeyman electrician (journeyman) license requires completion of a four-year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on all types of electrical installations. A limited renewable energy technician (LRET) license requires completion of a two-year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on renewable electrical systems not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC up to the load side of the inverter. A journeyman or other licensee is required to complete the AC side of a renewable energy installation.

Senate Bill 338-A increases the maximum size of renewable energy systems on which an LRET may perform work from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC. The measure also allows LRETs to install AC wiring to the termination of factory-provided cables up to three feet into the accessible space of the structure. A journeyman or other licensee is still required to make the final connection to the building's wiring system.