

HB 2395 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Prusak

Action Date: 03/03/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Helm, Marsh, Moore-Green, Owens, Pham, Smith DB, Speaker Kotek

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 3/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of “recycled paper checkout bag” to include bags that contain at least 40 percent nonwood renewable fiber or a combination of post-consumer recycled fiber and nonwood renewable fiber that totals at least 40 percent for purposes of single-use checkout bag prohibition. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of materials that qualify as recycled paper checkout bag
- Potential economic opportunity for Oregon businesses

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2509, which prohibited retail establishments and restaurants from providing single-use checkout bags to customers, with certain exceptions. In addition, the measure authorized retailers and restaurants to charge a five-cent fee for recycled paper checkout bags or reusable fabric or plastic bags. Across the U.S., seven other states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, and Vermont), have also enacted measures to prohibit the use of single-use plastic bags at grocery stores and other businesses.

House Bill 2395 would expand the definition of “recycled paper checkout bag” to include nonwood renewable fiber and a combination of post-consumer recycled fiber and nonwood renewable fiber, along with post-consumer recycled fiber.