

SB 392 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 03/18/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Dembrow, Findley, Robinson, Taylor

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/4, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with the Public Utility Commission and Department of Energy, to study the fugitive emissions associated with production, storage, transportation, and delivery of natural gas consumed in or transported through Oregon. Requires study to assess degree of fugitive emissions in Oregon's natural gas delivery system; survey and describe production of natural gas consumed in Oregon and best practices to reduce fugitive emissions; describe characteristics and compare the regional supply and delivery systems with other states and regions; identify areas where there could be reductions of fugitive emissions; and develop certain definitions. Requires DEQ to consider certain information when conducting the study. Requires DEQ to report study results to the interim legislative committees related to the environment no later than November 15, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The role of methane gas in climate change
- Impact of older infrastructure
- Efforts of Oregon utilities to update infrastructure
- Scope of fugitive emissions problem in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Some natural gas leaks into the atmosphere from oil and natural gas wells, storage tanks, pipelines, and processing plants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in 2018, methane emissions from natural gas and petroleum systems and from abandoned oil and natural gas wells were the source of approximately 29 percent of total U.S. methane emissions and 3 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Senate Bill 392 A would direct the Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Public Utility Commission and Department of Energy, to study the fugitive emissions associated with production, storage, transportation, and delivery of natural gas consumed in or transported through Oregon and report findings to the interim legislative committees related to the environment no later than November 15, 2022.