

HB 2479 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 03/24/21
Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 4-2-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Helm, Marsh, Pham, Speaker Kotek
Nays: 2 - Moore-Green, Smith DB
Exc: 1 - Owens
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of “global warming” to include certain aerosol air contaminants, including black carbon. 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 DEQ 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. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Short-lived nature of black carbon
- Department of Environmental Quality responsibility in tracking black carbon
- Impacts of black carbon exposure on human health

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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 DEQ 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.

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.

HB 2479 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 2479 A would include black carbon and certain aerosol air contaminants in the definition of global warming and require the Department of Environmental Quality 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.