

## HB 2691 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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**Action Date:** 04/06/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Breese-Iverson, Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

**Nays:** 1 - Cate

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 4/6

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon State University (OSU), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Energy, to conduct a study to identify practical techniques for painting wind energy facilities that are scientifically shown to increase the visibility of the facilities to birds and prevent avian deaths; evaluate the suitability of the technique of painting wind turbine blades at wind energy facilities in Oregon; and evaluate the feasibility of implementing the techniques in a manner that complies with any applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration. Requires the study to discuss the potential effects that the identified practical techniques may have on wildlife in Oregon other than birds. Directs OSU to provide the results of the study in a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to agriculture and natural resources pursuant to ORS 192.245 no later than September 15, 2025. Sunsets January 2, 2026. Takes effect on 91<sup>st</sup> day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effectiveness of painting wind turbine blades on night time visibility for birds
- Associated costs from blade damages due to bird collision
- Findings from studies conducted in other parts of the world

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Wind turbines are large structures that often stand around 410 feet tall with generally three turbine blades extending out 246 feet from the central nacelle. As they migrate, birds and bats can be killed by impacts with the spinning turbine blades. Estimates of avian fatalities in the U.S. range from 140,000 to 573,000 birds annually.

House Bill 2691 A directs Oregon State University, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Energy, to conduct a study to identify practical techniques that increase the visibility of the facilities to birds and prevent avian deaths in Oregon and requires the study to discuss the potential effects that the identified practical techniques may have on wildlife in Oregon other than birds.