

SB 581 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/13/21

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

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Dembrow, Findley, Taylor

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/23, 2/25, 3/2, 4/8, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes 15-member Truth in Labeling Task Force (Task Force). Requires the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to each appoint one member from their chambers to serve as nonvoting member in an advisory capacity. Requires the Governor to appoint five members to represent producers of packaged items; three members to represent local governments of different population sizes and geographic locations; four members to represent recycling industry; and one member to represent environmental organization interests. Requires Task Force to study and evaluate misleading or confusing claims regarding recyclability of products made on a product. Requires study to include consideration of issues affecting accessibility for diverse audiences. Requires Task Force to submit final report and recommendations for legislation to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment no later than June 1, 2022. Requires DEQ to provide staff support. Sunsets Task Force December 31, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Other legislation being considered during the 2021 Legislative Session
- Interim Recycling Steering Committee process to develop recommendations
- Changes to Oregon's recycling markets

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2018, the Chinese government banned the import of certain plastic and paper grades and set tighter contamination standards for paper. The loss of China's markets disrupted recycling systems worldwide. In Oregon, communities had to make changes to their recycling collection programs, which included: increased customer rates, suspending recycling, or removing items from programs. In some cases, materials that were collected for recycling were disposed.

In May 2018, the Department of Environmental Quality formed the Recycling Steering Committee (RSC) with the intention of working with stakeholders to modernize Oregon's recycling systems. The RSC met from May 2018 through September 2020.

Senate Bill 581 A establishes a Truth in Labeling Task Force (Task Force) to study and evaluate misleading or confusing claims regarding recyclability of products made on a product. The Act would require the Task Force to submit a final report and recommendations for legislation no later than June 1, 2022.