

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 589

Ordered by the Senate April 1
Including Senate Amendments dated April 1

Sponsored by Senator TAYLOR, Representative POWER, Senator BEYER, Representative HELM; Senator DEMBROW (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Requires State Department of Energy to establish public process for purpose of investigating potential costs and benefits that would arise from electric utilities participation in regional transmission organization. Requires department to report findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to energy and business no later than September 15, 2022.]

[Sunsets January 2, 2023.]

Requires State Department of Energy to prepare report identifying benefits, opportunities and challenges posed by development or expansion of regional transmission organization in this state. Requires department to follow certain procedures in preparing report. Requires department to provide report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than December 31, 2021.

Sunsets January 2, 2022.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to a regional transmission organization; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Energy, in consultation with the Public Utility Commission, shall prepare a report identifying the benefits, opportunities and challenges posed by the development or expansion of a regional transmission organization in this state.

(2) As part of preparing the report required by this section, the department shall review studies and reports relevant to the development or expansion of a regional transmission organization in this state made available between January 1, 2019, and July 1, 2021, and conduct a literature review of other existing studies and reports pertaining to regional transmission organization development in the western United States.

(3) The department shall be advised by an advisory committee in drafting the report. The advisory committee shall, at a minimum, include:

(a) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

(b) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(c) One member of the Public Utility Commission or a designee of the commission;

(d) One representative of the Office of the Governor; and

(e) The following nine members appointed by the department:

(A) Two representatives of investor owned utilities that provide retail energy to customers in Oregon;

(B) One representative of a rural electric cooperative;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (C) One representative of a people's utility district;

2 (D) One representative of a municipal electric utility;

3 (E) One representative of independent power producers;

4 (F) One representative of a nonprofit organization with expertise in markets and trans-
5 mission;

6 (G) One representative of a labor organization; and

7 (H) One representative of an organization with expertise in environmental and social
8 justice.

9 (4)(a) Upon completion of the reviews required by subsection (2) of this section, the de-
10 partment, in consultation with the Public Utility Commission, shall prepare a summary of
11 the reviews and a set of scoping questions informed by those reviews, to be shared with the
12 advisory committee required under subsection (3) of this section in preparation for advisory
13 committee meetings. The department shall:

14 (A) Hold no less than two meetings with the advisory committee to gather advice from
15 the committee on the benefits, opportunities and challenges posed by the development or
16 expansion of a regional transmission organization in this state; and

17 (B) Gather written responses from advisory committee members to the scoping questions
18 prepared by the department.

19 (b) In addition to gathering advice from the advisory committee, the department shall,
20 to the extent feasible:

21 (A) Gather advice from the Bonneville Power Administration and any other relevant
22 state, regional or federal entities; and

23 (B) Consider any relevant studies, reports, literature or drafts thereof that are made
24 available after July 1, 2021, but before the department finalizes the report required by this
25 section.

26 (5) The department shall provide the report required by this section to the interim com-
27 mittees of the Legislative Assembly related to energy, in the manner provided in ORS
28 192.245, no later than December 31, 2021. The report shall include the department's findings
29 from the review required under subsection (2) of this section and a summary of the advice
30 gathered and reviews undertaken by the department pursuant to subsection (4) of this sec-
31 tion. The report may include recommendations for legislation.

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2, 2022.

33 **SECTION 3.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
35 on its passage.

36