

SB 1518 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Gives power of administration and interpretation of Reach Code to Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services (Director). Requires Director, with approval of appropriate advisory boards to adopt, amend and administer the Reach Code as a specialty code within the state building code. Requires that Director follow same process in developing the Reach code as used in developing residential and commercial building codes and to ensure that statewide Reach Code mandates achievement of not more than 90 percent of site energy use that other statewide residential and commercial building codes require. Requires director to adopt Reach Code at same time director adopts corresponding residential specialty code or corresponding structural specialty code, updating Reach Code at least every three years. Authorizes municipality to adopt Reach Code and require adherence to code as minimum construction standard and method within municipality's jurisdiction notwithstanding requirement that state building code be uniform and applicable to all municipalities in state. Provides that municipality's adoption of Reach Code is not amendment to state building code and does not require approval of director. Provides that municipality that does not adopt Reach Code does not need to enforce Reach Code within municipality's jurisdiction. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Stipulates executive orders of the Governor that are related to regulating carbon emissions by means of the state building code to not apply to the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. Prohibits the Governor from issuing an executive order that directs a state agency to adopt, amend, or implement a provision of the state building code that regulates emissions unless it also requires an exemption for the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region.

BACKGROUND:

Under existing statute, ORS 455.500, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), in consultation with the appropriate advisory boards, is required to adopt, amend and administer a Reach Code designed to increase energy efficiency in buildings that are newly constructed, reconstructed, altered or repaired. The Reach Code is an aspirational efficiency code that builders can choose to use, and local governments are required to accept projects built to the Reach Code. There is both a residential and commercial reach code. The current Residential Reach Code was adopted in August 2021 and DCBS is in the process of adopting an updated Commercial Reach Code.

Senate Bill 1518 adds the Reach Code to the state building code. The Act authorizes a municipality to adopt the Reach Code and to require adherence to Reach Code standards.