HB 4139 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing or substituting certain materials used in construction and maintenance of the state transportation system with different materials that enable greenhouse gas emission reductions. Specifies scope and content of the pilot program. Requires bids and proposals for designated demonstration projects within the pilot program to include environmental product declarations, with exceptions. Directs Department to establish a technical advisory committee to advise the Department on the pilot program. Requires Department to report annually to Oregon Transportation Commission and legislative committee on transportation on implementation of pilot program. Sunsets December 31, 2030. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Directs Department of Transportation to establish, by December 31, 2025, a program for greenhouse gas reduction that: assesses emissions attributable to materials used in construction and maintenance of the state's transportation system; conducts life cycle assessments of certain construction and maintenance activities; and devises strategies for improving pavement and bridge conditions. Outlines items to be considered and evaluated by program. Requires Department to conduct separate assessments in each of the state's five transportation regions. Directs Department to require contractors to submit environmental product declarations in certain circumstances. Outlines requirements for use of environmental product declarations. Directs Department to establish a technical advisory committee to assist with program implementation. Requires Department to report annually to Oregon Transportation Commission and legislative committee related to transportation on progress of program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

BACKGROUND:

An environmental product declaration (EPD) is a report that provides an overview of the life cycle of products in a single, comprehensive report detailing the product's impact on the environment. This can include factors such as global warming impacts, smog creation, ozone depletion, or water pollution. Environmental product declarations are used extensively in Europe, but there are a number of organizations that provide such programs in North America.