

HB 2531 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 1/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits sale or distribution in or into Oregon of new screw- or bayonet-base type compact fluorescent lamps as a new manufactured product on or after January 1, 2024. Prohibits sale or distribution in or into Oregon of new pin-base type compact fluorescent lamps and linear fluorescent lamps as a new manufactured product on or after January 1, 2025. Permits continued sale and distribution of certain types of lamps. Allows Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules necessary to enforce prohibition on sale or distribution of certain fluorescent lamps. Establishes civil penalty for any person who violates prohibition, rule, or order pertaining to sale and distribution of certain fluorescent lamps. Repeals statutes related to mercury in lighting products on January 1, 2025. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Fluorescent bulbs, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, contain mercury which can be released into the environment as a liquid or vapor when a bulb breaks. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, mercury exposure can cause adverse health effects in humans, harming internal organs and the nervous system, as well as in fish and wildlife. Vermont and California have banned the sale and distribution of certain fluorescent lamps starting in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

House Bill 2531 would prohibit the sale or distribution in Oregon of certain types of new compact fluorescent lamps and linear fluorescent lamps.