

## SB 488 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

---

**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/7

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires municipal solid waste incinerator that combusts: (1) **more than 500 pounds** of hospital, medical or infectious waste (Medical Waste) per hour to meet federal standards applicable to **large** hospital, medical or infectious waste incinerators; and (2) municipal solid waste incinerator that combusts more than **200 but less than 500 pounds** of Medical Waste per hour to meet federal emissions standards applicable to **medium** hospital as set forth in 40 C.F.R. 60.52.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces measure. Requires municipal solid waste incinerator that combusts: (1) **more than 500 pounds** of hospital, medical or infectious waste (Medical Waste) per hour to meet federal standards applicable to **large** hospital, medical or infectious waste incinerators; and (2) municipal solid waste incinerator that combusts more than **200 but less than 500 pounds** of Medical Waste per hour to meet federal emissions standards applicable to **medium** hospital as set forth in 40 C.F.R. 60.52. Authorizes Environmental Quality Commission to adopt more stringent standards by rule, for municipal solid waste incinerator subject to Act if emission standards are warranted by public health considerations or other scientific evidence; or the United States Environmental Protection Agency adopts more stringent standards. Requires Department of Environmental Quality to modify existing permits to comply with Act no later than July 1, 2024. Prohibits DEQ from renewing air discharge permit for municipal solid waste incinerator that is not in compliance with modified permit resulting from Act on or after July 1, 2026. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

##### BACKGROUND:

In 1989, the Oregon Legislature passed a law requiring that pathological waste be incinerated instead of being disposed of at a landfill. In 1997, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated regulations creating emission standards for medical waste incinerators due to concerns over air quality affecting human health. According to the Department of Environmental Quality all of Oregon's infectious waste is currently transported to treatment facilities in Washington and Oregon. Oregon's only municipal waste incinerator, located in Brooks, Oregon, incinerates some infectious waste.

Senate Bill 488 would require municipal solid waste incinerators that accept more than a specified amount of hospital, medical or infectious waste in a calendar year to meet federal emissions limits for hospital, medical or infectious waste incinerators.