

SB 522 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/21, 3/23, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes goal of achieving greenhouse gas levels that are at least 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2035. Adjusts 2050 goal to achieve greenhouse gas levels that are at least 80 percent, rather than 75 percent below 1990 levels.

Changes name of “Oregon Global Warming Commission” to “Oregon Climate Action Commission” (Commission). Authorizes Commission to periodically make recommendations to Legislative Assembly to strengthen greenhouse gas emission reduction goals (GHG Emission Reduction Goals) based on the best available science. Increases number of voting members from 11 to 13 by adding member with significant experience in environmental justice and a youth representative. Increases number of nonvoting members from 14 to 22 by adding the directors of the following agencies: Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Business Development Department, Oregon Department of Administrative Services, Department of Consumer and Business Services, State Fish and Wildlife, Housing and Community Services Department, and the executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Requires state agencies to regularly report to Commission on their efforts to make progress toward GHG Emission Reduction Goals and preparations for effects of global warming. Directs Commission to track and evaluate the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon's natural and working lands. Directs Commission to prepare a detailed forecast of expected greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Modifies timing for submitting report to Legislature on progress towards achieving GHG Emission Reduction Goals.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Establishes state aspiration of achieving greenhouse gas levels that are at least 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 70 percent below 1990 levels by 2040. Adjusts 2050 goal to achieve greenhouse gas levels that are at least 95 percent, rather than 75 percent below 1990 levels. Establishes aspiration of state to achieve net zero emissions as soon as practicable, but no later than 2050 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. Removes definition of "greenhouse gas cap-and-trade system." and defines "net negative emissions" and "net zero emissions." Expands Oregon Climate Action Commission (Commission) to include one member with significant experience in fishing industry. Removes requirement that certain agencies report annually to Oregon Climate Action Commission (Commission). Removes requirement that Commission examine greenhouse gas cap-and-trade systems. Expands existing requirements to include tracking and evaluating net zero and net negative emission goals, and carbon sequestration potential of Oregon's natural and working lands. Requires Commission to prepare detailed forecast of expected greenhouse gas emission reductions and periodically evaluate greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, net zero emission goals, and net negative emission goals and make recommendations to Legislative Assembly for updating goals based on best available science. Establishes minimum requirement that Commission complete evaluation and provide recommendations to Legislative Assembly no later than 18 months after United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change publishes synthesis report or United States Global Change Research Program publishes a national climate assessment. Requires Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with Commission, to evaluate opportunities to reduce Oregon's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions and to present its findings to Legislative Committee related to the environment no later than September 15, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007 the Legislature enacted House Bill 3543 which established the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) and set the following goals: by 2010, arrest the growth of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and begin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; by 2020, achieve greenhouse gas levels that are 10 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050, achieve greenhouse gas levels that are at least 75 percent below 1990 levels. The OGWC is comprised of 11 voting and 14 nonvoting members. The voting members of the OGWC are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms. The Oregon Department of Energy provides staff support for the OGWC. The OGWC is tasked with recommending ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and efforts to help Oregon prepare for the effects of global warming.

Senate Bill 522 would change the name of the Oregon Global Warming Commission to the Oregon Climate Action Commission (Commission) and modify the membership and duties of the Commission. In addition, the Act would modify the state greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals by adding the goal of achieving greenhouse gas levels that are at least 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2035 and adjust the 2050 goal to achieve greenhouse gas levels that are at least 80 percent, rather than 75 percent below 1990 levels.