

SB 545 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules that take effect no later than June 30, 2024, to allow a restaurant to allow a consumer to fill a consumer-owned container with food. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

- Ayes, 19; Nays, 8--Bonham, Boquist, Girod, Hayden, Linthicum, Robinson, Thatcher, Weber; Excused, 3--Frederick, Gorsek, Woods

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Health Authority role in promulgating rules
- Effect of microplastics on human health, wildlife, and environment
- Stakeholder process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 459.005 (29) defines “waste prevention” as reducing the amount of solid waste generated or resources used, without increasing toxicity, in the design, manufacture, purchase or use of products or packaging. According to the Department of Environmental Quality, waste prevention involves reducing waste through changes in the design, purchase, and use of materials. Waste prevention typically reduces environmental impacts over all stages of the life cycle of materials: resource extraction, manufacturing, transportation, and end-of-life management.

To-go coffee cups and other to-go food containers are often not accepted in recycling programs because they are coated with plastic or wax that makes it difficult to separate from paper in the recycling process.

Senate Bill 545 A would direct the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules allowing a restaurant to allow a consumer to fill a consumer-owned container with food.