

HB 3181 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODE) and Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to convene a work group to examine renewable energy and transmission project siting in this state including the current state and local regulatory framework for renewable energy and transmission development, and associated barriers, issues, opportunities and recommendations for changes; the amount of energy generation and associated land and marine areas needed to meet Oregon's energy goals; and incentives for renewable energy and transmission development. Specifies work group membership and operation procedures. Requires ODE and DLCD to submit a report to an energy related interim committee by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Appropriates General Fund moneys to ODE and DLCD. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODE) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to establish the **Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Energy Siting process** (process) with the purpose to identify geographic characteristics, sizes and locations in Oregon that are suitable and appropriate for siting renewable energy or transmission development based on specified criteria, factors that help minimize the geographic area needed for such development, and regulatory or policy changes or resources to streamline and expedite the renewable energy siting or transmission development process. Authorizes ODE and DLCD to enter into intergovernmental agreements with other state agencies, tribal governments and counties for purposes related to the process. Establishes the **Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Energy Siting Advisory Committee** (advisory committee) for the purpose of supporting the process and specifies its membership requirements, operational procedures and required tasks. Authorizes ODE and DLCD to contract with a third party or parties to provide support to the advisory committee including meeting coordination and facilitation, processes development and coordination, and furnishing data, maps, and technical assistance. Requires ODE and DLCD to contract with a third party to **report** the work and recommendations of the advisory committee to an appropriate interim committee of the legislature by December 31, 2024. Sunsets the reporting requirement January 2, 2025. Requires ODE to maintain and periodically update a **renewable energy siting assessment tool** with information from inventories and mapping resources made available by federal agencies; regional, state, and local data and mapping projects; and sources and data identified by the advisory committee. Authorizes each county in eastern Oregon to, by January 1, 2026, adopt, as part of the county's comprehensive plan, a **mapped** inventory of areas best suited for renewable energy facilities or transmission development corridors siting and to adopt amendments to the county's comprehensive plan or land use regulations to allow for expedited review of renewable energy facilities or transmission development corridors on inventoried lands. Specifies counties' authorizations and requirements associated with conducting the inventory. Requires **DLCD to provide financial assistance** to county and tribal governments related to participation in the

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advisory committee and specified aspects of renewable energy and transmission development. Sunsets financial assistance program on January 2, 2026. Directs **ODE to provide financial and technical assistance** to assist public bodies, tribal governments, and community organizations to participate in certain activities related to renewable energy and transmission development. Requires ODE to establish **grant program requirements**, application and selection procedures, terms and conditions, and verification procedures and authorizes ODE to adopt rules associated with the grant program. Authorizes the **Energy Facility Siting Council to review the grant program** and require that additional terms and conditions be added. Specifies that moneys collected through assessments imposed on energy resource supplies may not be expended to provide financial or technical assistance associated with the grant program. Appropriates General Fund Moneys to ODE, and DLCD. Appropriates \$500,000 and \$2 million General Fund moneys to ODE and DLCD respectively to provide financial assistance according to their responsibilities described in the measure. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, Senate Bill 1547 required that by 2040 50 percent of Oregon's electricity needs must be met via renewable energy sources. Available renewable energy sources in Oregon include solar, wind, hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal, marine, renewable fuels and hydrogen sources, the largest of which is hydropower which accounts for ~40 percent of Oregon's energy mix.

House Bill 1547 would direct the Oregon Department of Energy and the Department of Land Conservation and Development to examine renewable energy and transmission project siting in the state.