

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3179 - 4

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Changes the maximum acreage of a solar photovoltaic power generation facility.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Department of Energy, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Transportation

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

HB 3179 - 4 changes requirements related to renewable energy facilities. The measure changes the maximum acreage of a solar photovoltaic power generation facility from 160 to 240 acres on high-value farmland, 1,280 to 2,560 acres when located on land that is predominately cultivated, and from 1,920 to 3,840 acres when located on any other land. The measure takes effect January 1, 2024.

Oregon Department of Energy

The fiscal impact of this measure for ODOE is indeterminate but anticipated to be minimal. The agency notes that because this measure expands county jurisdiction for siting of solar facilities, the number of applications submitted to the Energy Facility Siting Council could decrease, leading to changes to the agency budget due to changed workload, and a potential short-term reliance on the Energy Supplier Assessment to fund staffing costs that will no longer be funded by payments for siting review, until project application numbers stabilize.

Counties

Counties anticipate a minimal fiscal impact. The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) notes that when the number of acres that counties are responsible for increases, it will most likely increase the number of permit applications being requested. Processing of permit applications will require additional planning resources, but at this time is considered likely that any fees charged for the permitting process will offset any staffing increases.

Other entities

There is no fiscal impact for ODOT, cities, Department of Consumer and Business Services, or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.