

SB 222 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/20/23
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Golden, Prozanski, Smith DB, Taylor
Nays: 1 - Girod
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to accept payments by credit card for any products or services offered by the department. Authorizes DOGAMI to add a reasonable fee to the amount of a credit card payment to offset the impact of financial institution fees related to credit card transactions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits to payer and payee of a credit card payment option
- Payment by check would still be accepted by DOGAMI
- Cost associated with resolving "bad" checks
- Senate Bill 538 (2023) lacks authorization for agencies to accept credit card payments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is responsible for issuing permits related to mineral exploration, upland mining, surface impacts of underground mining, emergency or temporary mining, and drilling or using wells to extract oil, gas, or geothermal resources. Most mining projects in Oregon are aggregate surface mining for sand, gravel, and quarry rock. The regulatory program is primarily funded by permit fees that are paid by the regulated industry.

DOGAMI does not currently have the statutory authority to accept payments by credit card.

Senate Bill 222 would authorize DOGAMI to accept payments by credit card for any products or services offered by the department, and to add a reasonable fee to the amount of a credit card payment to offset the impact of financial institution fees related to credit card transactions.