

**SB 522 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

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**Action Date:** 04/04/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Findley, Golden, Lieber, Sollman

**Nays:** 1 - Hayden

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/21, 3/23, 4/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes state aspiration of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions consistent with practices to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and the following greenhouse gas reduction goals: by 2030, achieve levels that are at least 45 percent below 1990 levels and achieve levels that are at least 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. Changes name of “Oregon Global Warming Commission” to “Oregon Climate Action Commission” (Commission). Increases number of voting members from 11 to 13 and requires that: one member has significant experience in environmental justice, one member is appointed as youth representative, and one member has significant experience in fishing industry. 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, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon 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. Removes requirement that Commission examine GHG cap-and-trade systems. Directs Commission to track and evaluate progress toward net zero emissions goals, net negative emissions goals, and carbon sequestration of natural and working lands. Directs Commission to prepare detailed forecast of expected GHG emissions reduction and periodically evaluate and make recommendations to Legislative Assembly to strengthen GHG Emission Reduction Goals, net zero emissions goals, and net negative emissions goals based on best available science. Requires Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with Commission, to evaluate opportunities to reduce Oregon's consumption-based GHG emissions and to present its findings to legislative committee related to the environment no later than September 15, 2024.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Legislative history of Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC)
- Work of OGWC
- Aspirational nature of emission reduction goals
- Necessary staffing levels for Oregon Climate Action Commission

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Establishes state aspiration of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions consistent with practices to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and the following GHG reduction goals: by 2030, achieve levels that are at least 45

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percent below 1990 levels and achieve levels that are at least 70 percent below 1990 levels by 2040. Adjusts 2050 goal to achieve GHG 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 Commission. Removes requirement that Commission examine GHG 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 GHG emission reductions and periodically evaluate GHG 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 GHG emissions and to present its findings to legislative committee related to the environment no later than September 15, 2024.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3543 that established the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) and set the following goals: by 2010, arrest the growth of Oregon's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and begin to reduce GHG emissions; by 2020, achieve GHG levels that are 10 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050, achieve GHG 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 GHG emissions and efforts to help Oregon prepare for the effects of global warming.

Senate Bill 522 A 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 declare that it is the aspiration of the state to reduce GHG emissions consistent with practices to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.