

SB 869 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/04/23

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

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Lieber, Sollman

Nays: 2 - Findley, Hayden

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/16, 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), as DCBS’s responsibilities relate to efficiency or resiliency in buildings, to:

- Exercise any and all authority and discretion to help facilitate, at a minimum, the achievement of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals (ORS 468A.205);
- Prioritize and take necessary actions to accelerate reductions in GHG emissions, including, but not limited to, rulemaking processes in addition to DCBS’s existing responsibilities; and
- Consider and integrate prevention or reduction of climate change impacts and GHG emissions reduction goals into planning, budgeting, investments, and policymaking decisions.

Directs DCBS to contribute towards achieving GHG emissions reductions and mitigation of climate change impacts by: setting goals for improved energy efficiency; investigating options for, and feasibility of, reducing GHG emissions resulting from manufacturing, transporting, installing, disposing, and recovering materials used in building construction; and investigating benefits and feasibility of updating building ventilation standards and specifying standards for air cleaners present in building mechanical systems and occupied indoor spaces.

Requires DCBS to: consult with advisory boards and committees and cooperate with ODOE to specify energy efficiency goals for new residential and commercial construction that aim to achieve at least 60 percent reduction in annual energy consumption from standards specified in the statewide 2006 building and applicable specialty codes by 2030. Cooperate with ODOE to identify metrics to inform updates to statewide building codes and applicable specialty codes. Requires DCBS to report to legislative committee related to the environment every three years, beginning December 31, 2023, on progress towards achieving goals and options for achieving goals over the course of the subsequent three updates to the state building code and applicable specialty codes.

Requires DCBS to update Reach Code to reflect progress toward specified energy efficiency goals each time statewide building code and applicable specialty code are updated. Requires coordination with DEQ. Requires to extent feasible, in cooperation with DEQ, and taking into account Department of Transportation standards, identify options to reduce GHG emissions attributable to building materials so that lower carbon materials may serve the same function. Requires DCBS to consider industry standards. Requires DCBS to report to legislative committee related to the environment, no later than December 31, 2024, on findings and recommendations on options for reducing GHG emissions that result from manufacturing, transporting, installing, disposing of, and recovering materials used in building construction including specifying lower carbon materials or other means. Becomes operative January 1, 2024. Authorizes Director of DCBS to adopt rules prior to operative date of Act. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Process of Resilient Efficient Buildings Task Force
- Role of advisory boards
- Impact of unbuilt buildings on greenhouse gas emissions
- Oregon's building codes compared to other states'
- Federal funding opportunities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Consumer and Business Service's (DCBS) stated mission is to protect and serve Oregon's consumers and workers while supporting a positive business climate. DCBS is Oregon's largest consumer protection and business regulatory agency with work in the following areas: finance (insurance, investments, Oregon-chartered banks and credit unions, consumer finance companies, mortgage lenders, pawnbrokers, payday lenders), workplace health and safety, and building safety. Building energy codes can require new construction and major renovations in existing buildings to meet minimum energy efficiency requirements, which reduces energy consumption while providing operation cost savings for occupants and owners.

Senate Bill 869 A would require the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to prioritize and take actions necessary to accelerate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including rulemaking processes, and considering and integrating reduction of climate change impacts and the greenhouse gas emissions reductions into planning, budgeting, investment, and policy-making decisions. The Act would require DCBS to set goals for improved energy efficiency in buildings; investigate options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that result from manufacturing, transporting, installing, disposing of, and recovering materials used in construction; and investigate the potential benefits and feasibility of updating building ventilation standards and specifying standards for air cleaners in buildings' mechanical systems and occupied indoor spaces.