

SB 91 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits, effective January 1, 2026, the sale and use of firefighting foam containing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Prohibits the disposal of firefighting foam containing PFAS at certain facilities. Requires the Environmental Quality Commission, in consultation with the State Fire Marshall (OSFM), to establish a program to ensure the safe collection and disposal of firefighting foam containing PFAS. Requires the Department of Environmental Quality and OSFM to develop educational materials and carry out educational outreach to educate users on the prohibition of PFAS firefighting foam, approved methods for collecting, transporting, and disposing of PFAS firefighting foam, and available alternatives. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Prohibits a fire department and employee or volunteer of the fire department from using PFAS firefighting foam, except as required by the Federal Aviation Administration or other federal law.

BACKGROUND:

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) are a group of more than 4,000 chemicals that have been used in a variety of industrial processes and consumer products since the 1940s. PFAS are also referred to as "forever-chemicals" as some of their components break down very slowly over time. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. According to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Authority Fact Sheet on PFAs exposure to high levels of PFAS may: affect growth, learning and behavior of infants and children; reduce a woman's chance of getting pregnant; interfere with hormones; increase cholesterol levels; affect the immune system; and increase the risk of cancer. More reasearch is needed to fully undersand how PFAS may affect human health.