

HB 3171 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes what a county must include in an energy resilience plan required under ORS 215.141. It also directs the county when developing a plan to engage with specified communities and consider certain factors.

Detailed Summary:

Defines what is meant by short-, medium-, and long-term power outages.

Removes requirements to identify and map existing infrastructure, natural hazard risks, and communities that experience social vulnerability. Removes requirements to inventory energy consumption needs of critical public service facilities (facilities). Requires an energy resilience plan (plan) to identify alternative energy generation and resources that may be used to meet needs of facilities identified in plan and specifies plan may include energy consumption needs of facilities. Does not require a county to identify every facility but describes process to identify additional facilities in the future if plan does not identify every facility. Requires plan to include, if needed, measure to mitigate natural hazard risks to alternative energy generation and storage resources located at facilities. Authorizes plan to include actions to increase household energy resilience. Requires county to do the following when developing a plan:

- Engage with local environmental justice communities for listed purposes.
- Use locations of communities that experience social vulnerabilities to prioritize potential locations of community resilience centers and to consider the needs of those communities to identify the facilities.
- Take natural hazard risks and risk mitigation measures into consideration when identifying potential center locations and selecting other facilities to include in plan.

Authorizes a county to use grant moneys received to cover the cost of developing a plan even if the statutory requirements for the plan are amended. Postpones the date the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is directed to submit a report to interim legislative committees related to energy from September 15, 2025, to June 30, 2027. Postpones sunset of requirement that ODOE establish a program to award grants to counties to develop plans from January 2, 2026, to January 2, 2028.

Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

- *FISCAL: Has fiscal impact*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Related past legislation
- Need for flexibility at the county level to choose what plans are most relevant to them

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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House Bill 2021 (2021) directed the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to convene a workgroup to examine opportunities to encourage development of small-scale and community-based renewable energy projects in Oregon that contribute to economic development and local energy resiliency. In 2022, ODOE issued its study on the work group's findings. The workgroup found that small-scale energy projects can play a role in "improving equitable access to clean energy, making more efficient use of state land resources, supporting community energy resilience, and increasing local economic performance." House Bill 3630 (2023) set requirements for energy resilience plans prepared by counties and established a grant program for financial assistance to counties to develop such plans. Grants are issued through a non-competitive program and provide up to \$50,000 per county.