

## **SB 635 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/5

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure directs the Oregon State University to conduct a feasibility study on nuclear energy generation in this state and to submit the report to the interim committees related to energy no later than December 15, 2026.

Detailed Summary:

Directs Oregon State University to conduct a feasibility study on nuclear energy generation in this state and to submit the report to the interim committees related to energy no later than December 15, 2026. Requires that study include:

- an evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy generation in this state;
- proposals to maximize the use of Oregon workers and Oregon products in the construction;
- nuclear energy generation facilities;
- evaluation of and recommendations of certain characteristics, impacts, criteria, and capacity;
- socioeconomic assessment and impact analysis;
- timeline for development;
- additional efficiencies and other benefits that may be gained from coordinating with other advanced clean energy technologies;
- literature review of studies that have assessed the potential impact of nuclear energy generation in supporting an energy transition;
- analysis of national and international studies; and
- feedback or input provided from stakeholder outreach.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Nuclear reactors generate electricity when thermal energy is released from the fission of nuclear fuel. According to the Oregon Department of Energy, the Columbia Generating Station in Washington State provides Oregon's nuclear power and the Bonneville Power Administration markets the electricity it produces. In 2004, Portland General Electric decommissioned its 1,130-megawatt Trojan nuclear-fueled power plant located in Columbia County.

Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) may issue site certificates for nuclear-fueled thermal power plants, but only after finding that an adequate repository for the disposal of the high-level radioactive waste produced by the plant has been licensed to operate by the appropriate agency of the federal government (ORS 469.595). If an adequate repository exists and is licensed, the nuclear-fueled thermal power plant site certificate proposal must be approved or rejected by Oregon voters at the next available statewide general election (ORS 469.597).