

SB 843 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes the requirement that the Public Utility Commission provide a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly on the volumetric incentive rates pilot program.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 28; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Volumetric incentive rates (VIR) are production-based incentives in which participants receive payments based on the output generated from the subscribed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems minus their own consumption. In 2009 the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3039 directing the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a pilot program to demonstrate the use and effectiveness of volumetric incentive rates and payments for electricity delivered from solar PV energy systems within Portland General Electric, PacifiCorp, and Idaho Power Company service territories. The bill also required the PUC to submit a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly January 1 of each odd-numbered year. In 2015, the VIR pilot program was closed to new participants.