

SB 91 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 4/15, 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines “PFAS firefighting foam” as a foam substance that contains intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances that is used to control or extinguish fire. The 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. It becomes operative on July 1, 2026.

Minimal Fiscal Impact

No Revenue Impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 27; Nays, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons for phased approach of replacing firefighting foam
- Potential negative impacts of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances on humans
- Other states’ related legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances 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 substances are also referred to as "forever-chemicals," as some of their components break down very slowly over time. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS substances 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.