

HB 3963 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure extends the deadline, from September 1, 2025, to January 1, 2027, for the Department of Land Conservation and Development to draft and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly on the department's activities to develop an Offshore Wind Roadmap and its assessment of enforceable state policies related to offshore wind energy development off the Oregon coast. The measure also extends the sunset of this requirement to January 2, 2027, and it takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Offshore wind is a renewable energy technology being deployed in shallow waters across the world. It is advancing into deeper waters by affixing wind turbine technology to floating platforms. Total offshore wind power nameplate capacity worldwide in 2022 was approximately 64 gigawatts, with China, the United Kingdom, and Germany accounting for three-quarters of that total capacity. In 2022, the Oregon Department of Energy issued the report, "Floating Offshore Wind: Benefits and Challenges for Oregon," which indicated that technical modeling has shown potential to develop dozens of gigawatts of offshore wind energy along the southern Oregon and northern California coast.

House Bill 4080 (2024) established state policy regarding the implementation of an Offshore Wind Roadmap and directs offshore energy projects to be connected to the Oregon coast electric grid in a manner that promotes the reliability and resilience of the state's electric system. Section 5 of the measure requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development to draft and submit a report by September 1, 2025, on the department's activities to develop an Offshore Wind Roadmap that defines the standards considered in offshore wind energy development and approval and on its assessment of enforceable state policies related to offshore wind energy development off the Oregon coast.