

SB 825 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Sen. Robinson

Action Date: 02/17/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Golden, Pham, Robinson, Smith DB, Sollman

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires rules adopted by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) related to reporting requirements for the State Agency Facility Energy Design program to minimize costs to state agencies and duplication of reporting requirements for building Energy Performance Standards for Covered Commercial Buildings Program (ORS 469.275 to 469.291).

It further eliminates reporting requirements associated with biennial reports to the Small-Scale Local Energy Loan Program Fund (SELP) as well as the Small-Scale Local Energy Project Administration and Bond Sinking Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Energy Strategy process included evaluation of existing programs and requirements
- Small-Scale Local Energy Loan Program (SELP) is closed for new applicants
- Duplicative reporting requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1991, the Legislative Assembly adopted a policy for the state “that facilities to be constructed or purchased by authorized state agencies be designed, constructed, renovated and operated to minimize the use of energy resources and to serve as models of energy efficiency (ORS 276.900).” This policy is implemented through the State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) Program. The SEED program requires state agencies to build and renovate buildings using energy-efficient design methods. Authorized state agencies are required to report annually to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) concerning energy use in authorized buildings.

In 2023, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3409, which established an energy performance standard (EPS) for covered commercial buildings to regulate the energy consumption of certain commercial buildings in Oregon and required state agencies to report annual energy use associated with the SEED and EPS programs. Senate Bill 825 directs ODOE to minimize the cost of the reports and minimize duplication of reporting requirements between the SEED and EPS programs.

In 1979, the Oregon State Legislature established the Small-Scale Local Energy Loan Program (SELP) to provide long-term fixed rate loans for energy projects. According to the *2023 Small-Scale Local Energy Loan Program Biennial Program Report*, more than 900 loans have been issued through the SELP program. However, SELP is currently inactive, so new loans have not been originated since 2015. The program will continue to service the existing loan portfolio and make related bond debt payments until 2034.

Senate Bill 825 eliminates the requirement that the ODOE Director submit a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly on the funds related to the Small-Scale Local Energy Loan program.