

SB 91 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Sen. Sollman

Action Date: 02/24/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Golden, Pham, Smith DB, Sollman

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/19, 2/24

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. Becomes operative on July 1, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Opportunities to exchange PFAS firefighting foam for foam without PFAS
- Process some fire stations have undertaken to transition from PFAS firefighting foam
- Firefighters' exposure to chemicals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

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