

HB 2777 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 03/26/25

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Boice, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Exc: 1 - Hartman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure exempts certain wells from onshore exploration permitting requirements, prohibits the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) from adopting rules that impose additional conditions on the transfer of a surface mining operating permit, authorizes DOGAMI to charge a permit transfer fee of up to \$250, and prohibits DOGAMI or other agencies involved in the permitting of mining operations from requiring a land use compatibility statement for activities already authorized by a local jurisdiction.

Detailed Summary

- Exempts wells from which sample materials are required from the requirement to obtain an onshore exploration permit, if it has been constructed by a licensed water well constructor.
- Prohibits the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) from adopting rules that impose additional conditions on the transfer of an operating permit for uncompleted surface mining operations.
- Authorizes DOGAMI to charge a permit transfer fee of up to \$250.
- Prohibits DOGAMI or other agencies involved in the permitting of mining operations from requiring a land use compatibility statement for activities already authorized by a local jurisdiction.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Moving the measure to the House Committee on Rules without recommendation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is responsible for issuing permits related to mineral exploration; upland mining; surface impacts of underground mining; emergency or temporary mining; and drilling or using wells to extract oil, gas, or geothermal resources. Onshore exploration permits are regulated through ORS 517.705 and are required for onshore exploration projects that disturb more than one surface acre or involve drilling deeper than 50 feet. Land Use Compatibility Statements are generally used to determine whether a certain permit or approval will be consistent with local government comprehensive plans and land use regulations.