



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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Date: April 2, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to landfill emissions monitoring; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Counties, Department of Environmental Quality, Cities

Summary of Fiscal Impact

The measure is estimated to have a fiscal impact on local governments – see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure directs the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to adopt rules requiring the use of advanced methane detection technology for surface emissions monitoring at municipal solid waste landfills. Landfill operators must use approved technologies to monitor methane emissions across the landfill surface, report results in a standardized format to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), retain monitoring records for at least five years, and conduct follow-up monitoring within 10 days of any exceedance. If an exceedance occurs in an active landfill area, operators must submit a mitigation plan to DEQ. These provisions become operative on January 1, 2027.

DEQ and EQC may take necessary preparatory actions prior to the January 1, 2027, operative date to implement monitoring requirements.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is estimated to have a fiscal impact on local governments operating municipal solid waste landfills.

Local Governments

EQC currently allows landfill surface monitoring to be conducted by walking a grid with a sensor. The measure is expected to increase costs for cities and counties that own or operate municipal solid waste landfills by requiring the use of advanced methane detection technology for surface emissions monitoring. Although EPA regulations already require quarterly methane monitoring, the advanced technology specified in the measure is estimated to cost approximately \$5,000 per monitoring event, or \$20,000 annually per landfill. Counties report that there are five publicly owned landfills in Lane, Lake, Klamath, Crook, and Marion counties that are currently in DEQ's highest tier of monitoring and would be subject to the expanded methane monitoring requirements. However, there are numerous publicly owned or municipal solid waste landfills across Oregon, and while it is currently indeterminate how the regulation will apply to each, those subject to the new standards may also incur additional costs if required to conduct follow-up monitoring within 10 days of detecting an exceedance.

Department of Environmental Quality

There is anticipated to be minimal impact for the Department of Environmental Quality.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.