

SB 1160 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/02/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/26, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study (1) the financial costs for developing certain qualifying facilities and small-scale renewable energy projects (20 megawatts or less); and (2) potential costs and savings of secondary benefits of their development such as resiliency or reliability; and report to the Legislative Committee related to energy no later than September 30, 2026. The Act requires ODOE, with assistance from the Public Utility Commission, to collect all necessary data from project owners, developers, and public utilities while balancing the public interest in the information and proprietary interest of owners in collecting data and drafting the report. The measure takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Information not included in Small-Scale & Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects Study, September 2022
- Potential secondary benefits of small-scale renewable energy projects
- How information could be used

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replace measure with exception of effective date.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021 the Legislature enacted House Bill 2021, which directed the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to convene a workgroup of stakeholders to examine and report on opportunities to encourage development and address barriers to small-scale and community-based renewable energy projects. The [Small-Scale & Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects Study](#) was published in September 2022 and identified that small-scale projects do not benefit from the economies of scale of larger utility-scale projects and that generally the costs of renewable energy projects decrease as the project gets larger because the fixed costs of a project can be spread over more kilowatts, providing a volume discount. In addition, the study highlighted a lack of available data regarding the development costs of renewable energy projects of various sizes in Oregon and concluded that availability of such data would allow the ODOE to develop a more thorough cost-benefit analysis of renewable projects in the state.