

**SB 726 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

**Carrier:** Sen. Gelser Blouin

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**Action Date:** 04/02/25  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 4-1-0-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Golden, Pham, Smith DB, Sollman  
**Nays:** 1 - Robinson  
**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/24, 4/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure requires the Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) to establish rules for surface emissions monitoring and mitigation of methane gas emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. The Act requires, as of January 1, 2027, the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill to conduct surface emissions monitoring and report data as specified to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Detailed Summary

Requires the Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) to establish rules for surface emissions monitoring and mitigation of methane gas emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. Requires, as of January 1, 2027, an owner/operator of a municipal solid waste landfill required to conduct surface emissions monitoring must

- use advanced methane detection technology that meets minimum standards established by Commission to conduct surface emissions monitoring above all surface areas of the landfill;
- report results, including specific information to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
- maintain monitoring records for at least five years; and
- remonitor, after taking corrective action, within 10 days of any exceedance and submit mitigation plan to be submitted to DEQ for approval if corrective action cannot be taken.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Existing monitoring practices
- Potential health impacts of landfill emissions
- Availability of surface emission monitoring technology
- Current operation of Coffin Butte Landfill

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment modifies the definition of "municipal solid waste landfill" to comply with federal requirements. Senate Bill 992 requires the advanced methane detection technology to meet minimum standards established by the Environmental Quality Commission and extends the implementation date from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) landfill gas is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills and is composed of approximately 50 percent methane. Methane is considered a greenhouse gas and, over a 20-year time period, considered more than 80 times as potent as carbon dioxide according to DEQ. In October 2021, the Environmental Quality Commission adopted new rules which regulate landfill gas emissions. The rules require many landfills in Oregon to obtain an Air Contaminant Discharge

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

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Permit to submit data on the landfill characteristics and potentially monitor, collect and/or control landfill gas emissions.