

HB 2067 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 04/03/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-2-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Neron, Osborne

Nays: 2 - Owens, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Energy to establish by rule a rebate program for the purchase of battery-powered leaf blowers. It establishes the Commercial Landscape Equipment Rebate Fund (Fund) and appropriates \$2 million for deposit into the Fund.

Detailed summary:

Defines terms. Requires the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to establish by rule a program for providing rebates to commercial contractors, landscape construction professionals, and landscape contracting businesses for the purchase of battery-powered leaf blowers, operative on January 1, 2026. Establishes purpose of the rebate program. Establishes rebate amounts that are equal to 50 percent of the price paid by the person requesting the rebate for a battery-powered leaf blower and any new batteries or new battery chargers necessary for the person to use the battery-powered leaf blower for ordinary business reasons. Outlines criteria for rulemaking that ODOE may implement. Establishes the Commercial Landscape Equipment Rebate Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury, with moneys in the Fund continuously appropriated to ODOE. Appropriates \$2 million for deposit in the Fund. Requires ODOE to submit a report on the rebate program containing certain information no later than December 15 of each year to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to energy. Sunsets rebate program, related rulemaking, Fund, and reporting requirement on January 2, 2031. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges to recharging electric equipment in extreme weather
- Benefits to transitioning to battery-powered equipment
- Provisions of amendment
- Potential cost of rebate program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment makes changes to the rebate program for the purchase of battery-powered leaf blowers and appropriates \$2 million for deposit in the Commercial Landscape Equipment Rebate Fund.

Detailed summary:

Adds purpose of the rebate program. Adds requirements for ODOE rulemaking. Adds reporting requirement for ODOE. Adds sunset date of January 2, 2031, to rebate program. Appropriates \$2 million for deposit in the Commercial Landscape Equipment Rebate Fund.

BACKGROUND:

HB 2067 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Leaf blowers are popular commercial landscaping tools that can be powered by gas, electricity, or batteries. Gas-powered leaf blowers emit greenhouse gas emissions and can create noise pollution. Battery-powered leaf blowers can minimize noise pollution but may be cost prohibitive for commercial landscapers to adopt.