

HB 3539 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 12-0-0-0

Yeas: 12 - Andersen, Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Neron, Osborne, Owens, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/3, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), or the Department of Environmental Quality at the direction of the EQC, to contract with a third party to study and determine a greenhouse gas reporting emissions factor, at least once every five years, for electricity purchased from unspecified sources.

Detailed summary:

Requires the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), or the Department of Environmental Quality at the direction of the EQC, to contract with a third party to study and determine a greenhouse gas reporting emissions factor for electricity purchased from unspecified sources. Requires the EQC to cause the study to be completed no less than once every five years. Requires the EQC to update rules establishing the emissions factor no later than January 1, 2027. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Role of third party contracted for study
- Emerging technologies and energy markets
- Cost of conducting study

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) allows the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) by rule to classify air contamination sources according to levels and types of emissions and other characteristics which cause or contribute to air pollution (ORS 468A.050). The EQC may also require registration or reporting, or both, for any of class or classes of air contamination sources (ORS 468A.050). Additionally, the EQC can, by rule, require people who import, sell, allocate, or distribute electricity for use in Oregon to register and report on the electricity that emits greenhouse gases (ORS 468A.280). According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program "requires major sources including large stationary sources and liquid fuel, natural gas, propane, and electricity suppliers to report certain greenhouse gas emissions data," which is then reported, audited, and published annually.