

House Bill 3986

Sponsored by Representatives LEVY E, HELM

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act lets a county site a green power plant without taking a Goal-3 exception. (Flesch Readability Score: 73.1).

Makes counties approve applications to site renewable energy facilities filed before June 1, 2025, without applying the statewide land use planning goal related to agricultural use.

Sunsets January 2, 2028.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to siting of renewable energy facilities by counties on farmland; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 215.

SECTION 2. For an application to establish a renewable energy facility under ORS 215.446 that is filed with a county on or before June 1, 2025, and that is pending on the effective date of this 2025 Act:

(1) ORS 215.296, the statewide land use planning goal related to agriculture and any provisions of an administrative rule, comprehensive plan or land use regulations adopted to implement ORS 215.296 or the goal do not apply.

(2) A county may not require the applicant to adopt an exception under ORS 197.732 to a statewide land use planning goal relating to agricultural land.

(3) A county shall approve an application that meets the standards under ORS 215.446 (3) and may not apply any other standards.

(4) A county's approval of an application may only be reviewed on appeal under the standards under ORS 215.446 (3)(a)(A) and (b) and the approval is entitled to deference if there is any evidence to support the decision.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2028.

SECTION 4. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.