



# Oregon

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**DATE:** February 17, 2025

**TO:** House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

**FROM:** Abby Boudouris, Legislative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** HB 2062 of 2025 Session

HB 2062 uses a producer responsibility model to establish a statewide recycling program for portable and medium format batteries. DEQ does not have a position on the bill and is providing this testimony to explain how it relates to other producer responsibility programs administered by the agency. The program would be similar to Oregon's producer responsibility programs for electronics, paint, unwanted medicines, and mattresses, which were created by legislature in 2007, 2009, 2019, and 2022, respectively. Battery producer responsibility programs operate or have been established by law in multiple states, including Washington, California, Illinois, and Vermont.

Batteries in the waste stream can lead to fires in garbage and recycling trucks and at facilities. While many batteries are hazardous because of the toxic or corrosive materials they contain, they are also a valuable source of metals and critical raw materials that could be recovered and recycled.

Producer responsibility programs are part of an environmental management strategy for minimizing a product's environmental, health, safety, and social impacts throughout all stages of the product's life. Producer responsibility shifts the primary responsibility for minimizing these impacts to producers because, as the designer of the products, producers typically have the greatest ability to reduce impacts across the products entire life cycle and are in the best position to know the contents of the products and the risks associated with improper end-of-life management. Suppliers, retailers, and the public also play a role ensuring the product is managed properly.

Common components of a producer responsibility law include requirements for producers to establish and operate a convenient statewide system for collection of their products; ensure that collected products are managed responsibly at end-of-life; ensure the program is funded; and report annually on the success of the program. Operationally, the material collection and end-of-life management system is usually managed by one or more producer responsibility organizations operating on behalf of producers. HB 2062 includes all these elements.

DEQ's role in the program proposed in HB 2062 would be to provide oversight of any producer responsibility organization, including review and approval of a producer responsibility organization's program plan and review and approval of substantive program changes and annual reports. Some battery producer responsibility laws in other states require agencies in those jurisdictions to study or assess whether products or batteries not currently covered by a state's battery extended producer responsibility law should be covered at a later date. Under HB 2062, DEQ must report to the legislature in 2028 on DEQ's review and evaluation of such studies or assessment.

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