

SB 1597 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Frederick

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 02/16/26

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yea: 3 - Golden, Pham, Sollman

Nay: 2 - Robinson, Smith DB

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires an electric utility, including a public utility, people's utility district, municipal utility, or cooperative, to disclose to its customers the costs recovered from ratepayers for storing nuclear waste produced by an "energy facility," defined in the measure as a nuclear energy facility in Oregon, while generating electricity. The measure requires a person seeking to develop a nuclear energy facility to disclose to the electric utility and the public the cost of storing associated waste. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of nuclear energy in Oregon
- Disposal of nuclear waste
- Oregon's future and current energy needs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment limits the required disclosure to the costs of storing nuclear waste and defines the term "energy facility" for the purposes of the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Nuclear reactors generate electricity when thermal energy is released from the fission of nuclear fuel. According to the Oregon Department of Energy, the Columbia Generating Station in Washington State provides Oregon's nuclear power, and the Bonneville Power Administration markets the electricity it produces. In 2004, Portland General Electric decommissioned its 1,130-megawatt Trojan nuclear-fueled power plant in Columbia County.

Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council may issue site certificates for nuclear-fueled thermal power plants, but only after finding that an adequate repository for the disposal of the high-level radioactive waste produced by the plant has been licensed to operate by the appropriate agency of the federal government (see ORS 469.595). If an adequate repository exists and is licensed, the nuclear-fueled thermal power plant site certificate proposal must be approved or rejected by Oregon voters at the next available statewide general election (see ORS 469.597).