

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 1 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Cannon, Jenson, Macpherson, Dingfelder
Nays:	Smith G.
Exc.:	Burley
Prepared By:	Cat McGinnis, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/28, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides that public improvement contracts for construction, reconstruction or renovation of public buildings are required to contain an amount equal to at least 1.5 percent of total contract price for inclusion of appropriate, cost-effective solar electric or solar thermal energy systems. Solar energy technology may include passive solar energy systems that reduce energy use by 20 percent. Creates exception for public improvement contract for which no state funds are used. Creates exception if contracting agency determines that solar energy technology would not be appropriate, but requires that the contractor spend 1.5 percent of the total contract price of the current project on solar technology for a future public building project in addition to any amount already required under the act for the future building project. Directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODE) to develop a form for contractors' written determination of whether inclusion of solar energy technology is appropriate and requires ODE to report to the 2009 and 2011 Legislatures on the inclusion of solar energy technology in projects subject to the act. Applies to public improvement contracts advertised or entered into on or after January 1, 2008, the effective date of the act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact on small communities
- Inclusion of passive solar design

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

- Increases, from one percent to 1.5 percent of contract price, the required percent for solar technology in a public building construction contract
- Eliminates references to "solar design"
- Eliminates cost effectiveness as criteria for determining if use of solar energy system is appropriate
- Clarifies that solar technology shall include solar electric or solar thermal systems
- Allows inclusion of passive solar energy systems that reduce energy use by 20 percent

BACKGROUND: Solar energy systems include passive solar space heating, building architecture that emphasizes use of daylight, proper window placement and thermal storage, such as flooring materials that absorb and store radiant heat; solar domestic water heating systems and solar electric power systems, also called photovoltaic (PV) systems, which generate electricity. (If a utility customer's PV system produces more power than the customer uses, "net metering" laws require that the customer receive credit at full retail value for the surplus electricity that flows back to the power grid.) According to the Oregon Department of Energy, solar energy systems work well in western Oregon, which receives as much solar energy as the national average. Solar water heating and solar electric systems in Western Oregon produce roughly the same energy on an annual basis as systems in Florida.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.