

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	Atkinson
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies laws governing peoples' utility districts. Updates statutes that govern districts in order to facilitate their ability to acquire new renewable energy sources. Clarifies that districts may partner with other utilities and private entities and allows them to issue revenue bonds to acquire new renewable energy resources.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether there is a need to broaden the authority of people's utility districts
- Overlap and possible conflict with components of Senate Bill 838
- District ability to enter into partnerships and acquire renewable energy resources

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original measure.

BACKGROUND: People's utility district authority is granted by the State Legislature. The districts believe there is a need for revisions in the Oregon Revised Statutes to facilitate their ability to acquire renewable energy sources of electricity and form partnerships with other utilities.

Senate Bill 812-A makes a series of revisions to the law governing people's utility districts. It exempts districts from property taxes for the portion of land held jointly with a tax-exempt governmental entity. The definition of 'common facilities' is expanded to include electricity and services that are owned and operated jointly. Districts are allowed to become a member of an electric cooperative or of a limited liability company for the generation and transmission of electricity, but are prohibited from becoming a stockholder or lending credit to these entities or exercising the power of eminent domain. Additional provisions allow districts to acquire, own, trade, sell or transfer renewable energy credits. The limit of indebtedness is removed, but added language specifies that indebtedness can only be incurred for the development, purchase and operation of electric utility facilities or for the purchase of electricity, electrical capacity or renewable energy certificates. Under the measure, districts are allowed to issue revenue bonds to acquire a utility or property from willing sellers. Districts are also exempted from public contracting laws for the purchase of renewable energy facilities.

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