

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Galizio, Gilliam, Holvey, Thatcher, Witt, Read
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Barbara Allen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to undertake a study of electricity needs in Oregon to identify opportunities for the development of electricity from renewable energy sources. Requires the Commission to report the results to the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly. Repeals the Act January 2, 2012.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Feed-in tariff programs in Germany
- Goal for Germany to have 30 percent of their power from solar energy by 2020

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Over 45 countries have adopted feed-in tariff programs which encourage the development of electricity from renewable energy sources, usually solar panels. The basic tenets of a feed-in tariff policy are: if a utility customer can produce renewable energy, a local utility must connect them to their grid within 60 days of application; the utility provider must immediately start buying the electricity from the customer at a pre-determined incentive price; the price must cover what it costs to produce the electricity (purchase and install solar panels) plus a reasonable return on investment; and prices are guaranteed to the customer for a set contract period, typically 20 years.