

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 3 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Barnhart, Boone, Smith J., Cannon
Nays:	Bentz, Gilliam, Jenson
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/30, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends air quality statutory provisions relating to emissions from woodstoves to solid fuel burning devices. Defines “solid fuel burning device” to include any device that burns wood, coal, or other nongaseous or non-liquid fuels. Prohibits burning certain materials in solid fuel burning devices. Renames Residential Wood Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund (Fund) and modifies certain aspects of the fund. Authorizes Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), if they have adopted more stringent standards and if devices were manufactured at least 15 years prior to more stringent standard being adopted, or devices are located in a nonattainment area, to: prohibit installation and sale of used solid fuel burning devices for sale as new; set standards to require certified solid fuel burning devices to be removed and destroyed upon sale of a home; and require curtailment of solid fuel burning devices. Authorizes EQC to adopt rules and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to implement and enforce a program to curtail residential solid fuel heating during periods of air stagnation if local government has not met its requirement under federal Clean Air Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Consequences of failure to meet federal standards
- Potential penalty for noncompliance
- Health effects of particulate pollutants
- Timing of woodstove replacement requirement

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Since 1991, Oregon has required that new woodstoves be certified to meet air pollution standards. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data demonstrate that certified woodstoves are much less polluting than older, noncertified woodstoves, and can reduce fine particulates in the smoke by 70 percent. Woodstoves are also a major source of benzene and carbon dioxide in the air which can impact human health and the environment. In September 2006, the EPA tightened the fine-particulate standard based on new health studies. The DEQ identifies wintertime residential wood burning as a significant source of fine particulate air pollution, which at times exceeds federal air quality health standards.