

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 8 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bailey, Barnhart, Bentz, Boone, Gilliam, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Reiterates prohibition on sale or distribution for sale of a cleaning agent that contains more than 0.5 percent phosphorous by weight. Narrows exemption for cleaning agents used in automatic dishwashers to only apply to commercial dishwashers. Authorizes Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules. Establishes that prohibition takes effect on July 1, 2010.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of phosphorous on Oregon's waters
- Other states with similar prohibitions
- Cost-effectiveness of reducing phosphorus entering water treatment plants

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element that stimulates plant growth. When introduced into freshwater, phosphorus promotes the growth of weeds and algae and can degrade water quality. In 1991, the Legislative Assembly enacted legislation to prohibit the sale or distribution of cleaning agents that contained more than 0.5 percent phosphorous by weight in order to reduce phosphorous pollution and maintain existing water quality. The 1991 legislation also included an exemption for cleaning agents used in dishwashers. Senate Bill 631A limits the exemption to commercial dishwashers.