

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Herzog, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/19

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of phosphorous on Oregon's waters
- Twelve other states enacted similar legislation with ban starting on July 1, 2010
- Difference between commercial and residential dishwashers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Provides an exemption for a cleaning agent used in commercial dishwashers. Extends the effective date of the prohibition to July 1, 2010, and authorizes DEQ to adopt rules before that date if necessary.

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 legislature 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 legislation also included an exemption for cleaning agents used in dishwashers. SB 631 A narrows that exemption to only apply to commercial dishwashers.