

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass

**Vote:** 9 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Gilliam, Krieger, Matthews, Riley, Smith J., Tomei, Whisnant, Wingard, Holvey

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Building Codes Structures Board and the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board to adopt radon mitigation standards for new public buildings and certain new residential buildings by January 1, 2011. Directs Department of Consumer and Business Services to make standards applicable for new residential building permits on April 1, 2011 and for new public building permits on April 1, 2013. Directs the Real Estate Agency to develop information concerning radon in one-and two-family dwellings and to make the information available to potential buyers of such dwellings by January 1, 2011. Declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Health hazards related to radon exposure
- Radon mitigation strategies
- Testing done previously in public buildings in Oregon

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Radon is a radioactive, colorless, odorless, and tasteless noble gas that occurs naturally as the decay product of radium. It is classified as a health hazard due to its radioactivity, and is often the single largest contributor to radiation exposure for individuals. The gas can accumulate in buildings, especially in confined areas such as attics and basements. Radon is classified as a carcinogen to humans; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates that radon is the second most frequent cause of lung cancer after tobacco use, causing an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year nationwide.

Senate Bill 1025-A requires adoption of design and construction standards designed to mitigate exposure to concentrations of radon in new public buildings and in new residential buildings that are identified in Oregon's Structural Specialty Code as Group R-2 and R-3. Group R-2 consists of residential occupancies containing sleeping units or more than two dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, Group R-3 covers residential occupancies that are permanent in nature and limited in the number of dwelling units.