

## FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 554

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

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### Measure Description:

Creates Task Force on Renewable Resource Generation and Transmission Development Areas.

### Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Energy, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Counties, Cities, Legislative Assembly

### Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis

### Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

### Analysis:

SB 554 establishes the 19-member Task Force on Renewable Resource Generation and Transmission Development Area charged with identifying renewable resource generation development areas within the state, including producing a map of existing generation resource and transmission lines and potential renewable resource generation development areas. The task force is required to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly on or before October 1, 2012. The task force sunsets on the convening date of the 2013 legislative session.

### Department of Energy

The Department of Energy is directed to convene the task force and provide staff support to the task force. The bill authorizes the task force to engage a mediator or other third party facilitator to assist in accomplishing its duties. The Department of energy estimates the cost of the task force to be \$641,492 [\$277,850 staffing; \$419,260 Professional Services and reimbursement expenses; and 1.50 FTE]. A detail of this cost estimate follows:

The \$277,850 staffing costs reflect salaries and associated expenses for two limited duration full-time positions: [1] One Operations and Policy Analyst 3 to develop task force strategy, assist in operational research and evaluation, provide analysis and project management support, and work with program service providers to carryout duties imposed on the task force; and [2] One Operations and Policy Analyst 2 to coordinate with state agencies, federal resource agencies, utility providers, local governments and other affected entities; and to coordinate meeting preparations, support and post meeting actions.

The bill authorizes the task force to engage a mediator or other third party facilitator to assist in accomplishing its duties. The Department of Energy anticipates contracting with subject matter experts in spatial data collection and refinement [\$200,000], as well as for meeting facilitation [\$75,000].

Members of the task force are entitled to expense reimbursement. The bill allows the task force to meet at times and places specified by the call of the chair or the majority of the voting members. In addition to regular organizational and business meetings, the bill requires the task force to hold at least four meetings that are open to the public. Although the administrative costs of meetings, per diem and travel

reimbursement costs will depend on the frequency and location of task force meetings, the department estimates the costs at \$88,642 assuming six meetings throughout the state.

Note that the bill stipulates that claims for reimbursement expenses are to be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Energy for the purposes of the task force. However, the bill does not specify the amount of funds to be appropriated. At this time, a specific source of funding has not been identified.

Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

The Department of Land Conservation and Development Director or designee is required to serve on the task force. DLCD also anticipates that additional staff would be enlisted to assist with gathering information, evaluating recommendations and coordinating efforts with Oregon counties and cities. At this time, the fiscal impact of this bill to DLCD is indeterminate depending on the level of participation required.

Cities and Counties

The League of Oregon Cities and the Association of Oregon Counties are identified as participants of the task force. This fiscal assumes that membership on the task force will have minimal impact on cities and counties, and that any task force work can be absorbed with existing resources.