

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 7 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Witt, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays: 0
Exc.: Thompson
Prepared By: Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/17, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends applicability of exemptions for certain wave energy projects under ORS 543.017, which establishes minimum standards relating to the development of hydroelectric energy power. Authorizes Water Resources Commission to adopt further rules relating to wave energy projects. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Requirement that installers of wave energy devices provide financial assurances in case of device failure or need for removal
- Development of wave energy project in Reedsport, Oregon
- Concern that existing laws applicable to wave energy pre-date the development of certain wave energy technologies
- Oregon's Territorial Sea Program
- Possibility of job creation from new wave energy projects

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Wave power is the transport of energy by ocean surface waves, and the capture of that energy to do useful work. Waves are generated by wind passing over the surface of the sea. As long as the waves propagate slower than the wind speed just above the waves, there is an energy transfer from the wind to the waves.

The commercial wave-power park at Reedsport, Oregon will utilize PowerBuoy technology, which consists of modular, ocean-going buoys. The rising and falling of the waves moves hydraulic fluid with the buoy; this motion is used to spin a generator, and the electricity is transmitted to shore over a submerged transmission line. House Bill 2748 would extend the applicability of exemptions for certain wave energy projects under ORS 543.017.