

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Hass, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder
Nays: 0
Exc.: Olsen
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/5

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. Applies to projects for which an application is made to the Department of State Lands on or before December 31, 2021. Authorizes Water Resources Commission to adopt rules relating to wave energy projects. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Job creation related to development of wave energy projects
- Only one company seeking permit when original exemption authorized in 2009

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. The exemption would sunset January 2, 2022.