

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 7 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays: 0
Exc.: Witt
Prepared By: Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits, between October 1 of any year and February 28 of the following year, sale of biodiesel containing additives to prevent congealing or gelling. Declares emergency, effective March 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulty of some vehicles, particularly trucks, to start diesel engines in cold weather, sometimes resulting in school closures and lack of emergency services
- Nature of chemical additives available and methods of blending those additives into fuel
- Significant drop in number of complaints relating to congealing and gelling of biodiesel after effective date of law permitting sales of fuel with additives

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendments.

BACKGROUND: The composition and cold flow properties of diesel fuels can vary. These characteristics are influenced by a number of factors, including the crude oil source and how it's refined and blended. Similarly, the cold flow properties of B20 or higher biodiesel blends can vary based on the feedstock from which they are made. Under current law (ORS 646.922), the sale of biodiesel containing additives to prevent congealing or gelling is permissible only until March 1, 2011. House Bill 2827 would remove the sunset on this provision of law.