House Joint Resolution 31

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs State Department of Energy and Department of Consumer and Business Services to cooperate and make all reasonable efforts to adopt and implement green construction code.

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JOINT RESOLUTION

2 Whereas the building sector contributes over one-third of all global greenhouse gas emissions 3 released into the atmosphere each year; and

4 Whereas the building sector represents the single largest opportunity for achieving deep cuts 5 in greenhouse gas emissions; and

6 Whereas the building sector accounts for 39 percent of energy use in the United States and 72 7 percent of electricity use in the United States; and

8 Whereas increasing the energy efficiency of buildings in the United States can save up to \$140 9 billion per year, can significantly reduce energy and other resource consumption and can substan-10 tially improve the long term value of the buildings for their owners and tenants; and

11 Whereas the International Code Council, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and 12 Air-Conditioning Engineers, the American Institute of Architects, ASTM International, the Illumi-13 nating Engineering Society of North America and the U.S. Green Building Council have collab-14 orated to create and initiate the International Green Construction Code, with code adoption 15 expected to occur in 2011; and

16 Whereas a green construction code is a comprehensive approach to the design, construction and 17 operation of buildings that employs materials, systems and methods that promote natural resource 18 conservation, energy efficiency and good indoor air quality; and

Whereas constructing buildings under a green construction code benefits building industry professionals, residents and communities by improving construction quality, increasing building durability, reducing utility, maintenance, water and energy costs, creating healthier homes and workplaces and enhancing comfort and livability; and

Whereas advances in building science have recognized many technologies and methods that yield higher efficiencies, health benefit improvements and safety increases, but most building codes do not yet address those technologies and methods and therefore can create barriers to smart solutions; now, therefore,

27 Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That the State Department of Energy and the Department of Consumer and Business Services are directed to work together and make all reasonable efforts to adopt and implement a voluntary green construction code that is:

31 (1) Integrated with the structural specialty code described in ORS chapter 455 and the Reach

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1 Code described in ORS 455.500;

2 (2) Based on a national model code developed by an organization having an established record

3 of developing building codes in the United States; and

4 (3) Amended to the extent necessary to make the code appropriate for use in the climates of this 5 state.

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