



TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

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SUBJECT: HB 2801A- Engrossed – Whole-building energy assessment and residential energy performance scores

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 2801A proposes to allow public purpose charge moneys to be used in conducting whole building assessments of energy efficiency. The bill would direct state agencies to establish residential energy performance score standards for existing voluntary programs, certification for home energy assessors, and certification for the appraisal of building energy efficiency features.

DISCUSSION

Senate Bill 79, passed by the 2009 Oregon Legislature, established a task force to study residential energy performance scores. The principles recommended by the task force were adopted in Administrative Rules by the Oregon Department of Energy.

House Bill 2801A would direct the Oregon Department of Energy, in consultation with the Oregon Public Utility Commission, to establish a standard for residential energy performance scores. The department's role would be one of designation, not creation. Through a public rulemaking process involving multiple stakeholders, energy performance score systems in industry would be evaluated against the principles recommended by the Senate Bill 79 task force. Stakeholders would likely include groups such as realtors, community action partners, and labor organizations. Voluntary programs already exist for residential energy performance scoring, and would remain voluntary.

House Bill 2801A would direct the Oregon Department of Energy to keep and maintain a database of home energy performance scores. This database would not be publicly accessible. The data would be aggregated and reported to the legislature so that it may inform future policy.

As defined in the bill, home energy assessors assign residential buildings a home energy performance score. House Bill 2801A would direct the Oregon Department of Energy to designate training programs that would ensure competency in conducting home energy audits and assigning home energy performance scores. This designation would take the form of a public rulemaking process with multiple

stakeholders. These programs would form the basis of a certification standard established by the Construction Contractors Board.

SUMMARY

House Bill 2801A proposes to direct ODOE to designate standards for voluntary residential energy performance scores, building on the principles established by rule as recommended by the SB 79 task force in 2009. The data collected for energy performance scores would be aggregated and reported to the legislature to inform future policy.