

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
Nays:	Close
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Racquel Rancier, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires person to attend pre-application conference and hold pre-application community meeting prior to submitting for local land use approval to establish or modify composting facility that sells or offers product for sale and requires a permit issued by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Establishes requirements and procedures for pre-application conference and pre-application community meeting. Requires pre-application conference to include representatives from county or city planning, DEQ and, as needed, certain other entities. Requires county or city to hold pre-application conference no more than 40 days after receipt of request followed by community meeting convened by applicant no more than 60 days later. Requires notice of pre-application community meeting to be sent to newspaper; local media; specified state and local agencies; and owners of record, occupants, and neighborhood and community organizations within one-half mile of site. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Permitting considerations to protect environment and public health
- Environmental and economic value of composting
- Impact of composting facility odor in communities surrounding site
- Process for composting dead animals
- Need for involvement of state agencies and public at beginning of process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Composting refers to the managed process of controlled biological decomposition of organic and other solid wastes called feedstocks. In Oregon, a person wanting to locate and operate a compost facility must obtain a permit through DEQ. During the permitting process, DEQ considers a number of factors including the size of the facility, site location, method of composting, and volume and type of feedstock. DEQ reviews facilities to minimize odors, achieve human pathogen reduction, control insects or animals capable of transmitting infectious diseases, and protect groundwater and surface water. As part of its screening process, DEQ requires composting facilities to obtain a land use compatibility statement from local government.

Senate Bill 462 A requires new composting facilities and existing composting facilities that begin using non-vegetative feedstocks or modify operations in a manner requiring new land use approval to undergo a pre-application conference with relevant agencies and hold a pre-application community meeting with the public prior to applying for land use approval.