

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bentz, Boone, Johnson, Lininger, Reardon, Smith Warner, Vega Pederson, Whitsett, Bailey
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Weidner
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows consumer-owned utilities to use certain amount of unbundled renewable energy certificates to meet renewable portfolio standard under certain circumstances. Defines “electric utility” according to current statute. Directs Public Utility Commission (PUC) to study impact of allowing electric companies to offer voluntary renewable energy tariffs to non-residential customers. Requires PUC to use study to determine whether and under what conditions it is reasonable and in public interest to allow electric company to provide tariffs to non-residential customers. Establishes that if PUC determines to offer tariffs, that PUC may authorize electric company to file schedule that establishes rates, terms and conditions. Establishes that costs and benefits associated with tariff be borne by customer receiving services under tariff. Prohibits electric company from using electricity, pursuant to voluntary renewable energy tariff, to comply with requirements of statutory renewable portfolio standard.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Organizations that participated in work group
- “Pieces” of legislation in measure
- Governor’s support of amendment
- Description of amendment
- Background for needing various sections of measure
- Impact on small utilities
- Related ballot measure that will no longer be needed

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Defines “electric utility” according to current statute. Directs Public Utility Commission (PUC) to study impact of allowing electric companies to offer voluntary renewable energy tariffs to non-residential customers. Requires PUC to use study to determine whether and under what conditions it is reasonable and in public interest to allow electric company to provide tariffs to non-residential customers. Establishes that if PUC determines to offer tariffs, that PUC may authorize electric company to file schedule that establishes rates, terms and conditions. Establishes that costs and benefits associated with tariff be borne by customer receiving services under tariff. Prohibits electric company from using electricity, pursuant to voluntary renewable energy tariff, to comply with requirements of statutory renewable portfolio standard.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Legislature enacted the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in 2007 (SB 838). Under the law, Oregon utilities must deliver a percentage of their electricity from eligible renewable resources by 2025, with interim standards for large utilities. An Oregon utility may comply using a combination of the following options: build an eligible facility (or continue to operate an existing one) and use the power and associated renewable energy credits; buy power and associated credits from an eligible facility owned by another party; buy “unbundled” renewable energy credits without the underlying electricity, statute limits how much of the utility’s obligation may be met with unbundled credits; or make alternative compliance payments, with an option to use these funds for energy efficiency or to build an eligible facility in the future. Different classes or sizes of utilities have different requirements under the RPS.

2/10/2014 9:41:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.