

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and be Referred to the Committee on Rules
Vote:	6 - 1 - 3
Yeas:	Boone, Lininger, Reardon, Smith Warner, Vega Pederson, Bailey
Nays:	Bentz
Exc.:	Johnson, Weidner, Whitsett
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/20, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds woody biomass as fuel for space or water heating, or to provide heat for combined heat and power systems, to definition of “green energy technology.” Specifies that green energy technologies located away from site of public building may not replace or constitute purchase and use of energy generated from technology that employs woody biomass that existed on date original building permit for public building was issued. Takes effect on 91st day after date on which 2014 session adjourns.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential of measure for economic development and jobs
- Biomass thermal to heat water
- Communities that can access and benefit from geothermal
- Forest health and restoration benefits of measure
- European use of biomass heating and efficiency of pellet boilers
- Concerns of adding “woody biomass” to this section of law
- Possible impact of measure on solar industry
- Emissions profile from biomass systems

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes from definition of “green energy technology” that woody biomass can be used as a fuel to generate electricity. Removes authority for Oregon Department of Energy to identify other renewable energy technologies as “green energy technology” by rule. Adds language to definition that woody biomass can include providing heat for combined heat and power systems.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law requires public entities to spend 1.5 percent of the total contract price of a public improvement contract for new construction or the major renovation of a public building on green energy technology. Public entities include, but are not limited to, state agencies, community colleges, school districts and education services districts, and local government. This requirement was originally established by the 2007 Legislative Assembly and amended in 2012 to include geothermal energy. In 2013, the Legislature amended the law to allow a contracting agency to meet the green energy technology requirement using off-site energy generation provided it meets certain requirements. The bill also required reporting by contracting agencies and the Oregon Department of Energy regarding actions taken to comply with the requirement. Senate Bill 1578-B adds woody biomass as a fuel for space or water heating, or to provide heat for combined heat and power systems, to the definition of green energy technology for the purpose of the requirement that a public body constructing or renovating a building spend 1.5 percent of the total contract price on green energy technology.

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