

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact (INTRODUCED)**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued (INTRODUCED)****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/1, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Health Authority to study and make report on demolition of residential structures painted with lead based paint or insulated with asbestos. Directs OHA to study risks public health and strategies for mitigating risks. Directs study of areas with different population densities including in cities with population greater than 500 people per square mile. Requires submission to interim committee of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2016. Repeals in 2017 regular session. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lead and asbestos as established health hazards
- Unregulated demolitions of older homes throughout Portland,
- Impact on neighbors by dust and other emissions
- Agency ability to inspect, monitor, and enforce public health safety during demolitions
- Existence of renovation, repair, and remodeling regulations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -2 Amendment: Requires Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to adopt rules requiring contractor to perform asbestos surveys to determine whether a residence is insulated with asbestos. Allows DEQ to establish exemptions.

BACKGROUND: Lead is a heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment and has been used extensively, particularly in building materials, due to its resistant properties, but it poses serious environmental and health problems. Some common symptoms of lead exposure are headache, weakness, muscle and joint pains, constipation, and fatigue. Children, elderly, and people with low economic status are at greater risk. The Oregon Health Authority reports that an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 children have elevated blood levels due to lead. Despite the fact that leaded paint and gasoline are no longer permitted in the United States (leaded paint has been banned for residential use since 1978), exposure can still occur. Dust from lead paint is the most common way lead enters the body. Homes built prior to 1950 in particular are most likely to have used lead-based paints. Chipping, peeling, or damaged paint poses the highest hazard because it can enter the body. Lead can also travel long distances before being deposited into land or water. It tends to stick in the soil and is not easily removed by water runoff. Asbestos is naturally occurring fibrous minerals that are extremely durable and is also often used in construction. No amount of contact is safe and exposure increases risk of developing lung cancer, asbestosis (disease of lungs), and mesothelioma.

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

Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session