

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

MEASURE: HB 2632 A

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/24/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways
And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/17, 02/19, 03/24

Vote:
Yeas: 9 - Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Weidner

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to establish program to incentivize generation of electricity derived from solar energy. Requires DAS to establish form and manner by which owner or operator of solar system may apply to participate, identify systems that are qualified to participate, and enter into contracts with owners or operators to purchase renewable energy certificates established under ORS 469A.130. Establishes system eligibility requirements. Directs DAS to establish payment schedule by rule and sets amounts paid based on nameplate capacity of system. Restricts payments to participant to no more than seven years from date of initial payment. Requires DAS to consult with state Department of Energy and, in some circumstances, Public Utility Commission prior to entering into contract. Directs DAS to close program to new applicants on January 2, 2022 and at that time reduce payment amounts in accordance with specified schedule. Establishes Solar Incentivization Fund. Repeals program on January 2, 2029.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for employment in rural areas
- Solar industry incentive programs
- Program cost

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Authorizes program participant to receive funds from public purpose charge for above-market costs of constructing and operating new renewable energy resources with nominal generating capacity if participant receives funds pursuant to agreement entered into before effective date of Act.

BACKGROUND:

Solar energy technologies produce electricity from the energy of the sun. The most commonly used solar technologies are solar water heating, passive solar design for space heating and cooling, and solar photovoltaics for electricity. House Bill 2632A would direct the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to establish a program to incent the development of solar energy projects.