

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/01/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/25, 04/01

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Edwards, Prozanski, Thomsen

Nays: 1 - Olsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes changes to program elements that may be used by cities and counties to fulfill requirements to implement recycling programs. Authorizes local governments to assess fee on solid waste collection or disposal services to cover costs to local government for providing opportunity to recycle and implementing program requirements. Establishes requirements for education and promotion programs provided by city, county or metropolitan service district responsible for providing opportunity to recycle. Updates waste generation goals for calendar years 2025 and 2050 and subsequent years. Identifies specific voluntary recovery goals for certain counties. Allows Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) to revise goals under certain conditions. Directs Commission to develop and adopt alternative method for calculating recovery rates based on rate of energy savings achieved through recovery of materials. Authorizes Commission to adopt other alternative calculation methods under certain conditions. Reduces required frequency of statewide solid waste composition study to once every three biennia. Requires Department of Environmental Quality to conduct statewide survey of recovery rates for certain materials for calendar year 2020 and 2025 and report to Legislature if goals are not being met.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Stakeholder outreach process
- Current operations
- High value materials still not being recycled
- Cities/counties choose options to fulfill requirements to implement recycling programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Makes changes to program elements that may be used by cities and counties to fulfill requirements to implement recycling programs. Authorizes local governments to assess fee on solid waste collection or disposal services to cover costs to local government for providing opportunity to recycle and implementing program requirements. Updates goal for total generation of solid waste for calendar years 2025 and 2049 and subsequent years rather than calendar year 2025 through subsequent years. Identifies specific voluntary recovery goals for certain counties. Lists possible energy saving practices that may be implemented as part of local program. Requires Department of Environmental Quality to conduct statewide survey of recovery rates for food waste and plastic waste for calendar year 2020 and for carpet waste for calendar year 2025 and report to Legislature no later than September 15, 2022 on food and plastic waste and September 15, 2027 on carpet waste if goals are not being met.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Legislature passed the first Opportunity to Recycle Act in 1983. The Act established solid waste management policies that recognized the environmental benefits of waste prevention, reuse and recycling. It stated

that in order to conserve energy and natural resources, solid waste management should follow a hierarchy: reduce the amount of waste generated; reuse materials for their original intended use; recycle what can't be reused; compost what can't be reused or recycled; recover energy from what cannot be reused, recycled or composted; and dispose of residual materials safely. The Act also required wastesheds to have recycling depots and cities with populations over 4,000 to provide monthly curbside recycling collection service to all garbage service customers. In 1991 the Legislature broadened recycling requirements and added activities to develop markets for recycled materials. In 2001 the Legislature enacted a statewide recovery goal of 45 percent for 2005 and 50 percent for 2009.

Senate Bill 263A would expand the program options that cities and counties can use to provide opportunities for recycling and waste prevention and updates recovery goals.