

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/03, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson

Nays: 1 - Weidner

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Updates language in ORS 757.603. Requires electric company to provide portfolio of rate options to residential electricity consumer that includes option for electricity associated with specific renewable energy resource, including solar photovoltaic, if Public Utility Commission (PUC) finds through public comment or market research conducted by electric company that demand is sufficient. Directs PUC to evaluate programs to incentivize development and use of solar photovoltaic energy systems and submit report to Legislature that recommends most effective, efficient and equitable approach to incentive programs and, for each program, recommendation on whether program should be discontinued, modified, extended or remain unchanged. Lists factors PUC must consider in developing recommendations. Requires report be submitted to interim legislative committee related to energy on or before September 15, 2016. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Community solar projects
- Existing solar incentive projects

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Solar photovoltaic (solar PV) systems convert sunlight directly into current that can be used to meet the electricity needs of homes and businesses. Oregon offers a variety of programs to encourage the development of solar PV systems, including net metering, utility incentives, feed-in tariffs, solar capacity standards and state tax credits.

House Bill 2941A would require electric companies to provide a portfolio of rate options to their residential customers that includes an option for electricity associated with specific renewable energy resource, including solar PV systems. The measure also directs the Public Utility Commission to evaluate solar incentive programs and report program recommendations back to the Legislature before September 15, 2016.