

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/15/15

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

Meeting Dates: 04/13, 04/15

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley

Nays: 2 - Girod, Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines “hand dryer” as an electrical device that blows air for the purpose of allowing a user of the device to dry the user’s hands. Requires hand dryer in public restroom to operate at a noise level of not more than 84 decibels. Requires downward blowing hand dryer to not blow air at an air velocity that exceeds 115 miles per hour. Applies only to hand dryers installed with new construction.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sensory issues associated with noise levels caused by hand dryers
- Measure crafted in consultation with the Department of Consumer Business and Services
- Applies only to new construction due to the provision’s location in Oregon statutes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 488A is intended to address the needs of populations that have sensory sensitivities. The measure specifies that new construction will only be allowed to have installed in restrooms hand dryers with a decibel level of no more than 84 decibels as identified on the manufacturer’s label. The same is true for existing buildings that renovate their restrooms and purchase new hand dryers. Hand dryer specifications will be added to the walkthrough list for inspections done by the Department of Consumer Business and Services.

Some of the vulnerable subgroups include: fetuses, infants and children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with particular diseases or medical problems like high blood pressure, people on the autism spectrum, Alzheimer’s patients, hearing aid users, and others.