

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/01/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/18, 06/01

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Edwards, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Olsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to study and develop recommendations for legislation to reduce woodstove smoke. Identifies subjects to be evaluated in study. Directs DEQ to form work group to conduct study and stipulates work group to include representatives of other state agencies, stakeholders, elected officials and others with expertise to inform study and represent urban and rural communities and different geographic regions of state. Requires DEQ to collaborate with specified agencies and consult with members of public from urban and rural communities, as well as different regions of state about preliminary findings and recommendations. Directs DEQ to submit initial report on preliminary findings and recommendations to legislative committee during 2016 regular session and final report on or before September 15, 2016. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Efficiency of woodstoves compared to fireplaces
- Funding mechanisms to encourage transitions
- Role of rural community members in work group

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1991, Oregon has required that new woodstoves be certified to meet air pollution standards. Woodstoves are a major source of benzene and carbon dioxide in the air which can affect human health and the environment. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) also identifies wintertime residential wood burning as a significant source of fine particulate air pollution, which at times exceeds federal air quality health standards.

House Bill 3068A would direct DEQ to form a work group to study and develop recommendations for reducing woodstove smoke.