

House Bill 2988

Sponsored by Representative HOLVEY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Expands Oregon's Heat Smart Program to provide wood pellet subsidies.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to qualifying renewable fuel subsidies; amending ORS 468A.490.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 468A.490 is amended to read:

468A.490. (1) There is established within the State Treasury a fund known as the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund.

(2) All moneys appropriated or received as gifts or grants for the purposes of this section shall be credited to the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund.

(3) The State Treasurer may invest and reinvest the moneys in the fund as provided in ORS 293.701 to 293.857. Interest from the moneys deposited in the fund and earnings from investment of the moneys in the fund shall accrue to the fund.

(4) All moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Environmental Quality to:

(a) Pay all costs incurred by the department for evaluating projects and programs, including projects and programs proposed by local communities or qualifying organizations, for project management and oversight of funds awarded for projects and programs selected in accordance with this section and for documenting the benefit to air quality from such projects;

(b) Fund the program established under subsection (5) of this section;

(c) Fund activities to enhance enforcement of ORS 468A.460 to 468A.515;

(d) Fund public education programs related to compliance with ORS 468A.460 to 468A.515; and

(e) Fund public education programs related to the benefits of the use of solid fuel burning devices certified pursuant to ORS 468A.460 to 468A.515.

(5)(a) The department shall use moneys available under subsection (4) of this section to establish a program designed to reduce the emission of air contaminants by providing:

(A) Grants, loans or other subsidies for the replacement or removal of solid fuel burning devices that were not certified by the department pursuant to ORS 468A.465; **and**

(B) **Subsidies for the purchase of qualifying renewable fuels identified by the Environmental Quality Commission by rule.**

(b) In addition to any other requirements established by rules adopted by the [*Environmental Quality*] commission, the program shall provide that:

[(a)] (A) All forms of new high-efficiency, low air contaminant-emitting heating systems are allowed, except vent-free heating appliances;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 [(b)] **(B)** Any solid fuel burning device removed under the program must be destroyed;

2 [(c)] **(C)** Any replacement device selected under the program must be installed in conformance
3 with building code requirements and the manufacturer's specifications including but not limited to
4 venting specifications; [and]

5 **(D) Program participants who purchase qualifying renewable fuels, including but not**
6 **limited to pellet fuels, shall qualify for receipt of subsidies; and**

7 [(d)] **(E)** To be eligible, program participants shall participate in any home energy audit program
8 provided at no charge to the homeowner and shall obtain all information available regarding subsi-
9 dies for cost-effective weatherization. The department shall make the information required in this
10 subsection readily available to program participants.

11 (6) The department may enter into an agreement with a local government or a regional author-
12 ity in order to implement the program established under subsection (5) of this section.

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