

HB 4037

Relating to solar energy

On February 23rd, the Subcommittee on Natural Resources voted to recommend passage of HB 4037, with amendments.

The bill directs the Oregon Business Development Department to establish a program to provide incentives to owners of photovoltaic energy systems that collect and distribute solar electricity. These systems must be directly connected to an investor-owned or publicly-owned utility and the equipment must have a nameplate capacity between two and ten megawatts.

The program awards half of a cent per kilowatt hour of solar power generated to qualified participants for five years. The acceptance of new program participants ends at the earlier of either January 2, 2017 or the date which all energy systems in the program have a cumulative name plate capacity of 150 megawatts. The program sunsets on January 2, 2023.

The fiscal impact in the 2015-17 biennium is estimated at \$951,561 General Fund and one position (0.58 FTE) for an Operations & Policy Analyst to manage the program.

Maximum payments to qualifying participants in the program, during the five year term, are estimated at \$8.22 million.

The Subcommittee on Natural Resources recommends HB 4037 be amended by the -A3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.