

SB 995 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines "employer" and "hazardous substance." Requires an employer to submit an annual materials balance report for each of its facilities to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Requires report to indicate the weight in pounds of the facility's input and output of hazardous substances to the smallest accounting unit and demonstrate that the facility's input and output of hazardous substances are equal. Authorizes DEQ to adopt rules to implement requirements and to impose civil penalty for violation not to exceed \$500 per day for each violation.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

In 1985, the Oregon Legislature passed the Oregon Community Right to Know and Protection Act. The purpose of this law is to provide first responders and the public with information about hazardous substances in their response areas and neighborhoods. The law directs the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to survey business and government facilities for information about the presence of hazardous substances and to collect information about incidents involving hazardous substances. The law further directs the OSFM to provide planning and training assistance to local jurisdictions on hazardous substance emergency response and preparedness. Passed in 1986, the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) also requires certain businesses to report storage of hazardous substances to their state regulatory agency. In 1996, the City of Eugene established its own community right to know program by amendment to its city charter. It is overseen by a seven-member volunteer citizen board appointed by the Eugene City Council.

Senate Bill 995 would require an employer to submit an annual materials balance report to the Department of Environmental Quality showing the weight in pounds of each facility's input and output of hazardous substances to the smallest accounting unit and demonstrating that the facility's input and output of hazardous substances are equal.