

**SB 656 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Business and Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases the required frequency of conducting independent management evaluation of nongovernmental entity's operations, efficiency, and effectiveness, if public purpose charge moneys are transferred to the entity for specified energy efficiency purposes.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 1149 (2001) directed the state's two largest electric utilities, Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp, to assess a three-percent "public purpose charge" on consumer energy bills to provide funding for energy conservation, renewable resource development and low-income energy programs. Revenues generated from the public purpose are allocated to five activities: energy conservation in homes and businesses (56 percent); construction of new renewable resource power plants and other renewable resource projects (17 percent); weatherization of low-income households (12 percent); energy conservation in schools (10 percent); and rehabilitation and construction of low-income housing (five percent). The first two uses listed above are overseen by the Energy Trust of Oregon.