

HB 2725 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$___ from General Fund to Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund (Fund) for biennium beginning July 1, 2017. Expands use of Fund to include grant program for providing funding to local service providers to develop and implement woodstove replacement rebate programs (Grant Program). Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt Grant Program by rule. Requires Department of Environmental Quality to prioritize first awarding grants to fund programs in maintenance or nonattainment areas and then to providers based on scoring system that takes geographic diversity, degree of proposed local match, estimated percentage of low-income residents to be served, and any existing or planned partnerships providing weatherization or low-income heating assistance. Set minimum grant application requirements. Requires local service providers to provide matching contributions based on population and percentage of low-income residents. Establishes reporting requirements for local service provider receiving grant.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Appropriates \$1,000,000, from the General Fund, to the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund to support community efforts to improve economic development and public health by reducing air quality emissions from solid fuel burning devices that burn wood. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

Smoke created from wood burning can be a significant source of air pollution and can have health consequences for those with asthma, respiratory or heart conditions, or other illnesses. Under current law, if you're buying or selling a home with a wood stove or fireplace insert in Oregon, you must ensure it was certified to meet emissions performance standards at the time of manufacture. If it was not certified, state law requires it to be removed, destroyed and disposed of when a home is sold. In 2009, the Legislature established the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund (Fund). The Department of Environmental Quality was directed to use the Fund to reduce the emission of air contaminants by providing grants, loans or other subsidies for the replacement or removal of non-certified solid fuel burning devices.

House Bill 2725 directs the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt a grant program to providing funding to local service providers to develop and implement woodstove replacement rebate programs (Grant Program). The Act also appropriates \$___ from the General Fund to the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund and expands the use of the Fund to include the Grant Program.