

**HB 3142 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Economic Development and Trade**

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**Prepared By:** Adam Crawford, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires a nongovernmental entity that receives public purpose charge funding from the Public Utility Commission to administer a program to provide loans for land bank authorities to acquire, rehabilitate, redevelop or restore brownfield properties. Requires loan program be capitalized with at least 10 percent of the public purpose charge funding received. Requires all loans made be paid back in full with specified exceptions. Takes effect on the 91st day following sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF 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 currently 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).

A generally accepted definition of a brownfield is "a real property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination." Contaminated properties may pose health risks, and even the perception of contamination may reduce the property's value. A current search of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Cleanup Site Information database indicates there are 432 known current or former brownfields in Oregon.

House Bill 3142 would require a nongovernmental entity that received public purpose moneys to use 10 percent of it to fund a loan program to provide loans to land banks to allow those land banks to acquire, rehabilitate, or redevelop brownfields.