

HB 2757 -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: 4/3, 4/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies cost recovery formula for site certificate holders by removing limitation that no more than 35 percent of annual fee be for recovery of general costs. Requires Oregon Department of Energy Director to adopt formula for apportioning general costs among holders of site certificates. Applies to annual fees due on and after July 1, 2018.

Establishes nine-member Energy Facility Siting Task Force (Task Force). Requires Task Force to review statutes and regulations that govern EFSC jurisdiction and develop recommendations in certain areas; and develop recommendations for clarifying single energy facility. Requires Task Force to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than September 15, 2018. Sunsets task force on December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Limits Energy Facility Siting Task Force review of what constitutes a single energy facility to solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, geothermal and wind to better clarify when electric power generating plant that produces power from solar photovoltaic, geothermal and wind energy qualify as an energy facility.

REVENUE: Revenue impact issued

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

The legislature established the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) in 1975, and charged the EFSC with overseeing energy facility siting in Oregon. The seven-member citizen body is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. EFSC's jurisdiction covers specific types and sizes of energy facilities including proposed: thermal power plants above 25 MW, wind projects that are 105 MW or greater, and utility-scale solar projects. Liquefied Natural Gas facilities and very large energy facilities are subject to federal siting processes, with support from ODOE's Siting Division. Many smaller facilities with less than a 25 megawatt (MW) capacity are subject to local jurisdictions. As of May, 2016 there were 29 energy facilities in Oregon with site certificates and five additional facilities under review.

House Bill 2757 modifies the cost recovery formula for site certificate holders and establishes the Energy Facility Siting Task Force.