79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Modifies cost recovery formula for site certificate holders.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO)

Analysis:

House Bill 2757 with the - 1 amendment changes the cost recovery formula for site certificate holders. These changes apply to annual fees due on and after July 1, 2018. In addition, the bill creates the ninemember Energy Facility Siting Task Force charged with reviewing and making recommendations for improving the statutes and regulations governing the jurisdiction of the Energy Facility Siting Council. All members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement. The task force is required to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by September 15, 2018. The bill takes effect on passage, and the task force sunsets on December 31, 2018.

Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)

The fiscal impact to ODOE is anticipated to be minimal. Currently, site certificate holders are required to pay an annual cost recovery fee that includes no more than 35 percent for Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) and department costs that cannot be directly allocated to a single facility or applicant. The bill directs ODOE to create, by rule, a formula to apportion these general EFSC and department costs among site certificate holders. ODOE reports that rulemaking is anticipated to require the work of 0.33 FTE for approximately six to nine months to facilitate a rulemaking advisory group to develop rules for adoption. ODOE will use existing staff and resources to carry out this work.

The fiscal impact to revenues from any potential changes to the cost recovery fee is indeterminate depending on the work and recommendations of the rulemaking advisory group.

Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO)

The Legislative Policy and Research Office is directed to provide staff support to the task force. The 2017-19 Legislative Branch budget should contain funds allocated for LPRO support of interim committees and task forces.