

SB 328 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes biomass facilities that were registered with the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System on or after January 1, 2011, eligible for renewable energy certificates. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Passed. Ayes, 26; nays, 3--Boquist, Ferrioli, Johnson

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current law is interpreted to include a requirement that pre-1995 biomass facilities have been registered by January 1, 2011 with Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System to be eligible for renewable energy certificates
- Several potential facilities impacted

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) sets a requirement for how much of the electricity we use must come from renewable resources. "Renewable" means the source of power can be used repeatedly because it is replaced naturally, like wind or the sun. The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) issues Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for the Oregon-certified energy facilities. RECs are issued for the generation of qualifying renewable power using: wind energy, solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy, wave, tidal, and ocean thermal energy, geothermal energy, certain biomass products, including woody biomass and animal manure, landfill gas and other biogases, small hydropower, and thermal energy. Facilities receive one REC for one megawatt-hour of qualifying renewable energy they deliver to the grid. Utilities and electricity service suppliers purchase and then retire these RECs to demonstrate compliance with the RPS. Senate Bill 1547 (2016) revised Oregon's RPS and removed a limitation that pre-1995 biomass RECs be banked and not used until January 1, 2026.

Senate Bill 328 would make biomass facilities that were registered with the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System on or after January 1, 2011 eligible for RECs.