

SB 334 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Energy to develop and maintain an inventory of biogas and renewable natural gas resources available to the state.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Adds whereas clauses. Clarifies that Department will periodically maintain inventory. Adds requirement that inventory include location of biogas production sites and an assessment of supply chain infrastructure. Revises language related to production potential. Replaces term "carbon dioxide" with "greenhouse gas". Replaces "generate carbon offsets" with "improve air quality". Replaces requirement that advisory committee make recommendations regarding economic and technological viability with recommendations on identification and removal of barriers; and replaces requirement that advisory committee make recommendations for developing a system for tracking natural gas as it enters and exits the pipeline with recommendation to establish policies to promote renewable natural gas. Adds requirement that Department of Energy report findings under Act to appropriate committee of 2019 Legislative Assembly.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is tasked with ensuring reliable, accessible access to energy for all Oregonians, a task which includes providing energy from diverse resources. The agency is also tasked with helping the State of Oregon meet its adopted climate goals.

The term "biogas" refers to a mixture of different gases that are produced by the breakdown of organic matter. It can be produced by raw materials such as agricultural and/or food waste, plant material, municipal waste, sewage or manure through the process of anaerobic digestion or fermentation. Biogas is typically made up primarily of methane, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide.

Senate Bill 334 directs ODOE to develop and maintain an inventory of biogas and renewable natural gas resources, including the estimated potential production quantities of each source and its estimated energy content, as well as an estimate of the range of technologies available for both production and conversion.