

HB 2725 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/10/17

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Barnhart, Bentz, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Marsh, Power, Reschke, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund to support community efforts to improve economic development and public health by reducing air quality emissions from solid fuel burning devices that burn wood. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost of replacing wood stoves
- Examples of actions taken by local governments to improve air quality
- Process for being designated non-attainment area

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Smoke created from wood burning can be a significant source of air pollution and can have health consequences for individuals with asthma, respiratory or heart conditions, or other illnesses. Under current law, if you're buying or selling a home with a wood stove or fireplace insert in Oregon, you must ensure it was certified to meet emissions performance standards at the time of manufacture. If it was not certified, state law requires it to be removed, destroyed and disposed of when a home is sold. In 2009, the Legislative Assembly established the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund (Fund). The Department of Environmental Quality was directed to use the Fund to reduce the emission of air contaminants by providing grants, loans or other subsidies for the replacement or removal of non-certified solid fuel burning devices.

A non-attainment area is a federal designation given to an area not meeting one or more National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Under the Environmental Protection Agency rules, industries seeking to expand or open an operation in a non-attainment area could face more stringent requirements because of the non-attainment designation. Both the Klamath Falls area and Oakridge in Lane County are currently designated as non-attainment areas, in part due to the large number of wood stoves.

House Bill 2725A would appropriate \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund to support community efforts to improve economic development and public health by reducing air quality emissions from solid fuel burning devices that burn wood.