

SB 908 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Without recommendation as to passage, but with amendments and requesting referral to Rules. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Energy Commission as a policy and rulemaking body for the Oregon Department of Energy. Transfers specified duties of the Department to the Commission and modifies the general duties of the Department. Makes modifications to state energy policy. Directs the Department to develop a statewide strategic energy plan, present a draft version of the plan to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019, and directs the Commission to adopt the plan no later than January 1, 2020 and periodically update the plan. Requires the Department to provide a biennial comprehensive energy report to the Governor and Legislative Assembly. Becomes operative January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for an oversight body for Oregon Department of Energy
- Different approaches taken by Senate Bill 908 and Senate Bill 952
- Fiscal impact of measure
- Work of oversight committee
- Supplier assessment fee
- Need to determine which state agency will address climate issues

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies legislative findings.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is the state's regulatory entity for energy production and transmission. It is comprised of five divisions: Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness; Energy Development Services; Energy Planning and Innovation; Energy Siting; and Central Services.