

SB 339 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Johnson

Action Date: 05/31/17
Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 6-1-2-0
Yeas: 6 - Barnhart, Bentz, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Marsh
Nays: 1 - Reschke
Exc: 2 - Power, Smith DB
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Caps the amount of electricity generated by any single biomass facility that may be used to meet the requirement that a certain percent of electricity in the state be generated by small-scale renewable energy projects or biomass facilities. Specifies that small-scale renewable energy projects must be facilities that generate electricity that may be used to meet Renewable Portfolio Standard. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative history
- Importance of having diversity in types of small-scale renewable projects

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 469A.210 requires that, by the year 2025, at least eight percent of the aggregate electrical capacity of all electric companies that sell electricity to 25,000 or more customers must be generated by small-scale renewable energy projects with generating capacity of 20 megawatts (MW) or less, or by facilities that generate electricity through biomass that also generates thermal energy for secondary purposes.

The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was enacted in 2007 with the passage of Senate Bill 838 (ORS 469A) which adopted a 25 percent RPS by 2025 for large utilities. In 2016, Senate Bill 1547 increased the RPS to 50 percent by 2040 while mandating the elimination of coal generation from Oregon rates by 2030. Senate Bill 1547 also directed Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp to source by 2025 at least eight percent of their sales from projects that have a generating capacity of 20 MW or less, or from facilities that generate electricity using biomass that also generate thermal energy for a secondary purpose.

Senate Bill 339A would amend the eight percent community-based renewable energy requirement to specify that regardless of a facility's nameplate capacity, the facility may be used to comply with requirement for up to 20 megawatts of capacity. The Act also specifies that to qualify as a small-scale renewable energy project the electricity generated must be from a type of energy that may be used to comply with the RPS.