

SB 634 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Whisnant

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/27/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes use of woody biomass energy technology as alternative to green energy technology as part of construction, reconstruction or major renovation of a public building if: woody biomass energy technology creates new energy generation capacity and the contracting agency has considered potential costs of woody biomass technology; it is located in area that is in compliance with Department of Environmental Quality standards for emission particulate matter; or, if it is in area that does not comply with standards, it uses pelletized fuel or produces same level, or lower level, of particulate matter than pelletized fuel. Authorizes DEQ to require additional emission control technology. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of woody biomass energy technology
- Inclusion of technology as green energy technology
- Effect of amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires public entities to spend 1.5 percent of the total price of a public improvement contract for new construction, or the major renovation of a public building, on green energy technology. Public entities include, but are not limited to, state agencies, community colleges, school districts and education services districts and local government. In 2012, Senate Bill 1533 allowed the use of geothermal energy to satisfy the 1.5 percent requirement if the temperature of the water used as a heat source is more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit. In 2015, House Bill 3329 modified the standard for geothermal energy resources to qualify as a green energy technology if the water used as a heat source is more than 128 degrees Fahrenheit and the system is used for a public school building.

Senate Bill 634-A would allow use of woody biomass energy technology as alternative to green energy technology as part of construction, reconstruction or major renovation of a public building, if certain conditions are met.