

SB 908 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/22/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. Refer to Ways and Means. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 3-0-2-0

Yeas: 3 - Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan

Exc: 2 - Beyer, Boquist

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 to 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:

- Department of Energy contested case process
- Amendment provisions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds four nonvoting members to Oregon Energy Commission. Requires Department of Energy to include information on impact of state agency activities in achieving greenhouse gas emissions goals in biennial report to Governor and Legislative Assembly.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) was established in 1975 in response to the national energy crisis. Its mission is to promote the efficient use of energy and to advocate for the use and development of new renewable energy. In the 41 years since its creation, ODOE has been assigned a variety of energy-related responsibilities, including regulatory functions. The Department is structured around four operative divisions: Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness; Energy Planning and Innovation; Energy Development Services; and Energy Facility Siting.

The Department is overseen by a Director who is appointed by the Governor, and currently is staffed by 84 permanent ODOE employees. The agency's 2015-17 operating budget is \$37.4 million, with revenue coming from program fees, federal dollars and \$13.1 million assessed on energy suppliers. The Department receives no General Fund revenue.