

HB 4148 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Energy Board (Board). Directs the Board to develop a statewide strategic energy plan for implementing energy policies. Requires the Board to advise and make recommendations to the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) on proposals related to: planning, policy, and technical analysis; legislative concepts; and the Department's requested budget. Requires the Department Director to review Department activities with the Board and, subject to policy direction from the Board, outline the methods, policies and program of work for the Department. Requires the Board to receive regular reports from the Energy Facility Siting Council and the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board. Requires the Board's seven-members to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Directs the Department Director and one member from the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council to serve as non-voting, ex officio members. Stipulates Board members must be residents of this state who are well-informed in energy and climate issues, and reflect a diverse range of experiences. Authorizes Governor to appoint no more that two-members with a pecuniary interest with a business entity subject to the energy resource supplier assessment. Established Board becomes operative January 1, 2019. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) was first established in 1975 in response to the national energy crisis. Its statutory mission is to promote the efficient use of energy and advocate for the use and development of new renewable energy. Since its creation, the Department has been assigned a variety of energy-related responsibilities, including some regulatory functions. In January 2016, the Joint Interim Committee on Department of Energy Oversight (Committee) was appointed to conduct a thorough review of the Department and to make recommendations to the 2017 Legislative Assembly. The Committee was directed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House to focus its work on the following elements: review of the agency's charge, mission, and statutory responsibilities; review of the agency's organizational structure and funding streams; assessment of the current gaps and deficiencies in the agency's operational structure and personnel capacity to fulfill its mission and programs; and assessment of the agency's capacity to facilitate stakeholder relationships, both public and private, to fulfill its mission.

House Bill 4148 establishes the Oregon Energy Board as the advisory body for the State Department of Energy.