HCR 9 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Prepared By: Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 1/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares legislative support for development of environmentally appropriate closed-loop pump storage projects and encourages Oregon utilities to use closed-loop pump storage in their resource mixes to meet future energy needs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), pumped storage projects move water between two reservoirs located at different elevations to store energy and generate electricity. When electricity demand is low, excess electric generation capacity is used to pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir. When electricity demand is high, the stored water is released from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir through a turbine to generate electricity. Nationally, 24 pumped storage projects are currently operative with a total installed capacity of over 16,500 megawatts. There are two classifications of pump storage projects, closed-loop and open-loop. Closed-loop pumped storage projects are not continuously connected to a naturally flowing water feature, whereas open-loop pump storage projects are continuously connected to a naturally flowing water feature.

House Concurrent Resolution 9 would declare the legislature's support for the development of environmentally appropriate closed-loop pump storage projects and encourage utilities to use this tool as one way to meet future energy needs.