

SB 1031 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to be deposited into the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund (Fund) for purpose of awarding grants to support community efforts to improve economic development and public health by reducing emissions from solid fuel burning devices that burn wood. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

Subsequent referral to JWMs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Smoke created from wood burning can be a significant source of air pollution and can have health consequences for those with asthma, respiratory or heart conditions, and other illnesses. Under current law, individuals buying or selling a home with a wood stove or fireplace insert in Oregon must ensure it was certified to meet emissions performance standards at the time of manufacture. If it was not certified, state law requires it to be removed, destroyed, and disposed of when a home is sold. In 2009, the legislature established the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund to reduce the emission of air contaminants by providing grants, loans, or other subsidies for the replacement or removal of noncertified solid fuel burning devices.

Senate Bill 1031 would appropriate funding for grants to support community efforts to improve economic development and public health by reducing emissions from wood stoves.