SCR 1 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date:	03/07/19
Action:	Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	5-0-0-0
Yeas:	5 - Bentz, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan
Fiscal:	No fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	1/22, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- How pump storage projects work
- Concerns regarding transmission lines needed for pump storage projects
- Project workforce numbers and considerations
- Water needs and availability for pump storage projects

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes references to specific pump storage projects, clarifies need for hydroelectric system to be complemented by other forms of energy storage as renewable energy increases, and adds language regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permitting process for closed-loop pump storage projects.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), pump storage projects store energy and generate electricity by moving water between two reservoirs at different elevations. When the demand for electricity is low, excess electric generation capacity is used to pump water from the lower to the upper reservoir. Conversely, when the demand for electricity is high, water is released from the upper to the lower reservoir through a turbine to generate electricity. To date, the Commission has authorized a total of 24 pump storage projects currently in operation, with a total installed capacity of over 16,500 megawatts. Additionally, there are two classifications of pump storage projects, closed-loop and open-loop. Closed-loop pump storage projects are projects that are not continuously connected to naturally flowing water, whereas open-loop pump storage projects refer to projects that are continuously connected to naturally flowing water.

SCR 1-A would support the development and utilization of closed-loop pump storage projects by Oregon utilities as a possible energy resource in order to meet their future energy capacity needs.