

HB 3408 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

Vote: 8-1-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Findley, Helm, Salinas, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde, Williams, Zika

Nays: 1 - Reschke

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$500,000 to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for deposit into the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Fund established under ORS 468A.490 for the purpose of supporting community efforts to promote economic development and improve public health by reducing emissions from solid fuel burning devices that burn wood. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Health impacts of wood stoves, including asthma, heart attack, stroke
- Economic impacts of air quality non-attainment status
- Washington County Wood Stove Exchange Program

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 individuals with asthma, respiratory or heart conditions, or other illnesses. Under current law, anyone 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 Legislative Assembly established the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund (Fund). The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was directed to use the Fund to reduce the emission of air contaminants by providing grants, loans, or other subsidies for the replacement or removal of non-certified solid fuel burning devices.

House Bill 3408 would appropriate \$500,000 to DEQ for deposit into the Fund to support community efforts to promote economic development and improve public health by reducing emissions from solid fuel burning devices used to burn wood.