

**HB 2496 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

**Carrier:** Sen. Dembrow

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**Action Date:** 05/07/19  
**Action:** Do pass the A-Eng bill.  
**Vote:** 3-0-0-2  
**Yeas:** 3 - Dembrow, Hass, Riley  
**Abs:** 2 - Girod, Olsen  
**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 5/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies requirements for green energy technology (GET) in public building projects. Applies GET to projects with total contract price of \$5 million or greater. Defines "total contract price" for purposes of determining application of green energy technology requirement. Includes battery storage that is part of on-site solar or geothermal energy in definition of GET. Lowers threshold from 20 to 10 percent reduction of energy use for passive solar energy building design. Exempts airports from GET requirement. Allows GET requirement to be satisfied by energy efficiency construction measures, or woody biomass that creates new energy generation capacity, when analysis determines solar resource fraction is 75 percent or less. Authorizes contracting agency to consolidate GET requirements from multiple projects into one public building or off-site location if total expense is an aggregate amount of all GET requirements and the project meets specified standards. Requires Oregon Department of Energy to adopt rules to administer program changes. Becomes operative January 1, 2020. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of GET requirement
- Need to clarify program requirements and create alternatives for projects where solar is inappropriate
- Concerns about current program enforcement
- Agency plans for implementation of new requirements

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Current statute requires all public building construction, reconstruction, or major renovation projects with costs exceeding 50 percent of the value of the building to expend at least 1.5 percent of the total contract price on green energy technology (GET), which is defined as a solar, geothermal, or woody biomass energy system used directly for space or water heating or to generate electricity, or a building design that uses solar energy passively to reduce energy use from other sources by at least 20 percent.

House Bill 2496-A modifies the requirement for green energy technology in public buildings by: 1) applying the requirement to projects with a total contract price of \$5 million or greater and clarifying the calculation of total contract price; 2) adding battery storage that is part of an on-site solar or geothermal energy system to the definition of GET; 3) lowering the threshold from 20 to 10 percent reduction of energy use for passive solar energy building designs to meet definition of GET; 4) allowing a contracting agency to satisfy GET requirements through energy efficient construction measures when analysis shows GET is inappropriate for a given project; and, 5) allowing a contracting agency to consolidate GET requirements from multiple projects into a single public building

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or off-site location.