

HB 4066 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Public Utility Commission to allow electric companies to recover costs for prudent investments or expenses in infrastructure measures that support adoption of electric vehicles if certain criteria are met. Requires investments to support reductions of transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions over time and benefit ratepayers in certain ways. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal Impact: No statement yet issued.

Revenue Impact: No statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires an **electric company** to have and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan (Plan) approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC). Requires the Plan to be submitted by the electric company every three years. Requires at a minimum that the plan: 1) identify areas at heightened risk of wildfire; 2) identify cost effective means for mitigating risk that reflects a balancing of mitigation costs with reduction of wildfire risk; 3) identify preventive actions and programs; 4) identify protocol for deenergizing power lines and adjusting system operations; 5) describe infrastructure inspection procedures, standards and time frames in identified heightened risk areas; 6) describe vegetation management procedures, standards and time frames in identified heightened risk areas; 7) identify the development, implementation and administration costs of the plan; and 8) identify community and public outreach efforts. Requires PUC in consultation with State Forestry Department and local emergency service agencies to review the Plan and approve the submitted Plan or disapprove the plan and inform the electric company of necessary modifications. Requires PUC to adopt rules for the review process. Requires a **consumer-owned utility** (COU) to have and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire mitigation plan (Mitigation Plan) approved by governing body. Requires COU's Mitigation Plan to be updated on a schedule the governing body deems consistent with prudent utility practices. Requires the COU to submit a copy of the Mitigation Plan to the PUC to facilitate statewide wildfire mitigation planning and preparedness functions. Requires PUC to convene periodic workshops. Stipulates electric company must submit first plan no later than December 31, 2020 and a COU must submit no later than December 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 978 (2017) directed the Oregon Public Utility Commission to establish a public process for investigating how developing industry trends, technologies, and policy drivers impact the existing regulatory system and incentives the PUC currently employs. One of the items identified by some participants in the Senate Bill 978 (2017) report was that an efficient way to reduce emissions was by electric utilities working to reduce emissions outside of the electric sector through beneficial electrification of other fuel uses, such as electric vehicles and other forms of electrified transportation.

House Bill 4066 would authorize the PUC to allow electric companies to recover costs for prudent investments in infrastructure measures that support the adoption of electric vehicles if certain criteria are met.