

SB 1563 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases maximum size of renewable electrical installation that limited renewable energy technician may make from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC. Allows limited renewable energy technician to make electrical installations on renewable electrical system up to the load side of the first AC disconnect before interconnecting with the electrical distribution network, rather than only up to the load side of the inverter.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Growth of Oregon's solar energy industry
- Changing renewable energy technology
- History of and current scope of work for LRET
- Negotiated agreement to amend scope of work for LRET to reflect current renewable technology

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Allows LRET, on renewable energy systems that to not exceed 50 kilowatts AC, to make electrical installation of devices that use renewable energy from wind, solar energy systems, micro-hydroelectricity, photovoltaic systems, or fuel cells, including all DC wiring and connections and AC wiring and connections to the termination of the factory-provided interconnecting cables and outside of a distribution panelboard, and to connect generators sized to facilitate the inverter in an off-grid system.

-2 Allows LRET to perform work on renewable energy systems that do not exceed 50 kilowatts AC, including all DC wiring and connections up the load side of an inverter and all AC wiring and connections to the termination of factory-provided interconnecting cables that are outside of a distribution panelboard.

BACKGROUND:

Current statute prohibits a person from performing work on an electrical installation without holding a proper license issued by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The department administers a series of individual electrical licenses, each of which grants qualified applicants a specified scope of work. A General Journeyman Electrician (Journeyman) license requires completion of a four year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on all types of electrical installations. A Limited Renewable Energy Technician (LRET) license requires completion of a two year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on renewable electrical systems not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC up to the load side of the inverter. A Journeyman or other licensee is required to complete the AC side of a renewable energy installation.

Senate Bill 1563 increases the maximum size of renewable energy systems on which an LRET may perform work from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC. The measure also allows LRETs to perform work past the load side of the inverter, up to the first AC disconnect before interconnecting with the electrical distribution network. A Journeyman or other licensee would still be required to complete a renewable installation past the disconnect.