

HB 3227 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing

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Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to study issues relating to adequacy of buildings in this state and report to appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Disallows Department of Consumer and Business Services from prohibiting, in state building code, the use of refrigerants listed as of January 1, 2022, under federal regulations as safe alternatives to Class I and Class II substances, provided that the safe alternatives are installed in accordance with applicable rules or regulations.

BACKGROUND:

The state building code sets standards for the installation and use of mechanical , heating, and ventilating devices and equipment. Refrigerants are substances used in a heat cycle that transfer heat from one area and moves it to another, such as in air conditioning or heating units. Refrigerants are heavily regulated due to their toxicity, flammability, and environmental impacts.

Title 42, Section 7671k of U.S. Code describes the Safe Alternatives Policy, which states, “to the maximum extent practicable, class I and class II substances shall be replaced by chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risks to human health and the environment.”

House Bill 3227-1 disallows the Department of Consumer and Business Services from prohibiting the use of safe alternative refrigerants in the state building code, provided that the safe alternatives meet federal regulations and installation requirements.