

**HB 2395 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

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**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/20, 4/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Expands definition of “recycled paper checkout bag” to include bags that contain at least 40 percent nonwood renewable fiber or a combination of post-consumer recycled fiber and nonwood renewable fiber that totals at least 40 percent for purposes of single-use checkout bag prohibition. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

- Ayes, 54; Nays, 3--Hayden, Nearman, Reschke; Excused, 3--Clem, Hernandez, Wallan
- Fiscal: No fiscal impact
- Revenue: No revenue impact

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Production opportunity in Oregon for producing paper bags from nonwood renewable fiber
- Reducing plastic waste
- Cost competitiveness of alternative paper bags
- Supply shortage of paper bags

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2019, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2509, which prohibited retail establishments and restaurants from providing single-use checkout bags to customers, with certain exceptions. In addition, the measure authorized retailers and restaurants to charge a five-cent fee for recycled paper checkout bags or reusable fabric or plastic bags. Across the U.S., seven other states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, and Vermont), have also enacted measures to prohibit the use of single-use plastic bags at grocery stores and other businesses.

House Bill 2395 would expand the definition of “recycled paper checkout bag” to include nonwood renewable fiber and a combination of post-consumer recycled fiber and nonwood renewable fiber, along with post-consumer recycled fiber.