

SB 542 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Action Date: 02/25/21
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Dembrow, Findley, Robinson, Taylor
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes 12-member Task Force on Vehicle Charging Stations (Task Force) staffed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Requires President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives to each appoint two nonvoting members to act in advisory capacity. Requires Governor to appoint the remaining seven members as follows: two members who represent highway users; one member from the Department of Transportation; one member from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD); one member from the Public Utility Commission (PUC); one member from an organization with expertise in transportation electrification in Oregon; one member who represents an electric company with experience deploying infrastructure or coordinating programs related to transportation electrification; and one member from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Directs Task Force to investigate installing vehicle charging stations across Oregon on public property and make recommendations for any statutory changes necessary to promote their installation and use. Requires Task Force to report to the Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15, 2022. Sunsets December 31, 2022. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of transportation electrification infrastructure in rural areas
- Perspectives represented on the Task Force
- History of electric vehicle infrastructure development in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Increases members of Task Force from nine to 12 with the following : one member from organization with expertise in transportation electrification in Oregon, one member who represents an electric company with experience deploying infrastructure or coordinating programs related o transportation electrification, and one member from the Department of Environmental Quality.

BACKGROUND:

Every major automobile manufacturer has announced plans to release multiple makes and models of plug-in electric vehicles. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), drivers throughout the nation identify concern about the availability of a reliable network of charging facilities as one of the biggest barriers to choosing an electric vehicle. ODOT helped develop the first major long distance DC Fast Charger corridor in the United States, commonly referred to as the West Coast Electric Highway. The West Coast Electric Highway is a network of electric vehicle DC fast charging and Level 2 charging stations along the West Coast, from British Columbia to the California-Mexico border. Charging stations are located every 25 – 50 miles along Interstate 5, Highway 99, and other major roadways in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Senate Bill 542 A establishes the Task Force on Vehicle Charging Stations (Task Force) and directs it to investigate and report on installing vehicle charging stations across Oregon on public property and to make recommendations

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to promote their installation and use.