SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with Public Utility Commission and State Department of Energy, to study fugitive methane emissions from natural gas production, storage, [and] transportation and delivery and provide results of study and recommendations for legislation in report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than [September] November 15, 2022. 
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to fugitive emissions; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Public Utility Commission and the State Department of Energy, shall study fugitive methane emissions associated with the production, storage, transportation and delivery of natural gas consumed in or transported through Oregon.

(2) The study conducted under this section must:
(a) Assess the degree of fugitive emissions present in Oregon's natural gas delivery system;
(b) Survey and describe the production of natural gas that is consumed in Oregon and industry measures and best practices to reduce fugitive emissions;
(c) Describe the characteristics of the regional systems that supply and deliver natural gas to Oregon and compare those systems with the systems of other states and regions;
(d) Identify areas where fugitive emissions can be reduced; and
(e) Develop and include definitions for “fugitive emissions,” “anthropogenic methane” and “biogenic methane.”

(3) In conducting the study the Department of Environmental Quality shall consider:
(a) Currently available national data on fugitive emissions, including data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
(b) Regional characteristics of natural gas delivery systems, including pipeline type and age.
(c) Existing programs to reduce fugitive emissions.
(d) The emission factors used in the Environmental Protection Agency's Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks and Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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(e) The supply chain of natural gas consumed in Oregon, including:

(A) Procurement pathways for utilities in Oregon, including:

(i) Regulations related to fugitive emissions in the regions that produce and supply Oregon's natural gas; and

(ii) Utility-specific procurement standards related to fugitive emissions, including standards at the source of generation and through pipeline infrastructure.

(B) The lifecycle emissions of natural gas delivered to Oregon, using resources derived from regional government and federal regulatory bodies that provide protocols for measuring fugitive emissions and regional analyses.

(f) National industrial and public policy trends.

(g) Fugitive emissions associated with renewable natural gas, including renewable natural gas feedstocks.

SECTION 2. No later than November 15, 2022, the Department of Environmental Quality shall provide the results of the study conducted under section 1 of this 2021 Act and recommendations for legislation to protect and minimize the adverse impacts of fugitive methane emissions on public health, safety and welfare and the environment in a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment in the manner provided under ORS 192.245.

SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2, 2023.

SECTION 4. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.