

HB 4139 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 02/22/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

House Vote

Yeas: 8 - Boshart Davis, Evans, Lewis, McLain, Nathanson, Noble, Pham, Power

Senate Vote

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Findley, Frederick, Gorsek

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to establish, by December 31, 2025, a program for greenhouse gas reduction that: assesses emissions attributable to materials used in construction and maintenance of the state's transportation system; conducts life cycle assessments of certain construction and maintenance activities; and devises strategies for improving pavement and bridge conditions. Outlines items to be considered and evaluated by program. Requires ODOT to conduct separate assessments in each of the state's five transportation regions. Directs ODOT to require contractors to submit environmental product declarations in certain circumstances. Outlines requirements for use of environmental product declarations. Directs ODOT to establish program to provide grants to bidders that require financial assistance to prepare environmental product declarations. Directs ODOT to establish technical advisory committee to assist with program implementation. Requires ODOT to report annually to Oregon Transportation Commission and legislative committee related to transportation on progress of program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Environmental impact of production of steel, concrete, and asphalt
- Percentage of total U.S. concrete and steel consumption by transportation sector
- Similar legislation introduced in other states
- Purpose of proposed technical advisory committee and grant program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

An environmental product declaration (EPD) is a report that provides an overview of the life cycle of products in a single, comprehensive report detailing the product's impact on the environment. This can include factors such as global warming impacts, smog creation, ozone depletion, or water pollution. Environmental product declarations are used extensively in Europe, but there are a number of organizations that provide such programs in North America.

House Bill 4139 A establishes an EPD program within the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to encourage the use of materials that will help the state meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals. The measure sets up a technical advisory committee with broad representation, and provides for different assessments in different areas of the state. The measure also directs ODOT to set up a grant program to assist smaller contractors and materials suppliers to comply with the program's requirements.