LC 2097 2025 Regular Session 11/22/24 (RLM/ps)

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SUMMARY

Digest: This Act creates a task force to study and report on energy production on farm land. (Flesch Readability Score: 70.1).

Creates Agrivoltaics Task Force staffed by Department of Land Conservation and Development. Requires task force to study agrivoltaics and to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to land use by December 15, 2026.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to agrivoltaics task force; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 <u>SECTION 1.</u> (1) The Agrivoltaics Task Force is established.

5 (2) The task force consists of at least 11 members, who shall be 6 appointed no later than 45 days following the effective date of this 2025 7 Act, as follows:

8 (a) One member, appointed by the Director of Agriculture, to rep9 resent the State Department of Agriculture;

10 (b) One member, appointed by the Director of the State Department

11 of Energy to represent the State Department of Energy; and

(c) At least nine members, appointed by the Director of the De partment of Land Conservation and Development, with diverse ge ographic representation, as follows:

15 (A) One member representing the Association of Oregon Counties;

16 (B) One member representing a land use organization;

17 (C) One member representing large agricultural operations;

18 (D) One member representing small agricultural operations or 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. 1 family farms;

2 (E) One member representing the solar development industry;

3 (F) One member familiar with community solar development;

4 (G) One member with expertise in agrivoltaics technology and de-5 ployment;

6 (H) One member representing the environmental community;

7 (I) One member with expertise in land valuation; and

(J) At the discretion of the director, an even number of individuals
with expertise, or who represent other interests, relevant to the purpose of the task force.

11 (3) The task force shall study and prepare a report on:

(a) The existing land use regulations around solar siting and agri culture and variations across the state, if any;

14 **(b) The benefits of agrivoltaics;**

(c) The potential for agrivoltaics on smaller family farms or com munity solar projects;

(d) The impacts to the agricultural economy from agrivoltaics,
 particularly impacts to properties or property values from solar siting
 or solar colocation;

(e) Recommendations on the size of feasible agrivoltaics projects
or the proportion of land that may be used for agrivoltaics;

(f) Mechanisms to ensure that farming remains the primary use of
 land used for agrivoltaics; and

24 (g) Solar development impacts on availability of land for farm use.

(4) The task force may study and report on additional topics relating to agrivoltaics.

(5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes
a quorum for the transaction of business.

(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a maiority of the voting members of the task force.

31 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-

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1 person.

2 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority
3 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

4 (9)(a) The task force shall meet no fewer than six times. The task
5 force shall have its first meeting on or before 90 days after the effec6 tive date of this 2025 Act.

7 (b) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the 8 call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the 9 task force.

(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of
 the task force.

(11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided
by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to
an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to land use
no later than December 15, 2026.

(12) The Department of Land Conservation and Development shall
 provide staff support to the task force or contract for the adminis tration of the task force.

(13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task
 force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an ad visory capacity only.

(14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement
for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

(15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the
task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to
confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the
task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

30 <u>SECTION 2.</u> Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on December 31, 31 2026.

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<u>SECTION 3.</u> This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.

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