

SB 544 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Environmental Quality Commission to establish program for source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging and achieve 25 percent source reductions compared to 2023 levels by 2030. Requires that at least 10 percent of required source reduction is attributable to elimination or development and utilization of infrastructure for reusable or refillable products. Creates interim requirement that by January 1, 2027, producers achieve at least 15 percent of the required source reduction, with at least 5 percent attributable to infrastructure for reusable or refillable products. Establishes civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 per day for each day of program violation.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature enacted statewide goals of recovering 25 percent of food waste and plastic waste by the year 2020. The law also required that if the goals were not met the Department of Environmental Quality would report to the Legislature to provide an evaluation of options to improve recovery rates and recommendations for meeting or modifying the recovery goals. Oregon did not meet either the plastics or the food waste recovery goal in 2020. The estimated recovery rates in 2020 were: 13.7 percent for plastic waste and 10.1 percent for food waste. In 2021, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 582 which established the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act which made changes to Oregon's recycling system that included requiring covered producers become a member of a producer responsibility organization to ensure that products collected are recycled by responsible end markets.

Senate Bill 544 would direct the Environmental Quality Commission to establish a program for source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging and achieve 25 percent source reductions compared to 2023 levels by 2030.