

HB 2534 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to work and consult with stakeholders to 1) identify areas of inquiry regarding energy and energy use in Oregon; 2) develop research options; and 3) convene advisory group to develop recommendations and benchmarks around energy and energy use in Oregon. Directs ODOE to produce a report with final set of recommendations and submit report to Governor and appropriate interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2024. Repeals section 1 of the Act on January 2, 2025. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

- *Fiscal: Fiscal impact statement issued*
- *Revenue: No revenue impact*

Subsequent referral to Joint Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Stakeholder process
- Context of state strategy within context of world events
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure with the exception of the effective date.

Requires Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to **develop a comprehensive state energy strategy** that identifies optimized pathways to achieving the state's energy policy objectives. Requires the state energy strategy to be informed, at a minimum, by the following: 1) stakeholder perspectives; 2) state laws, policies, and targets regarding energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; 3) existing energy and integrated resource plans; 4) energy-related studies and data analysis; and 5) state energy policy objectives. Requires the state energy strategy to take into account certain factors when identifying optimized pathways to achieving the state's energy policy objectives. Directs ODOE to engage with relevant state agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and stakeholders in developing the state energy strategy. Requires stakeholders to represent, at a minimum, a diverse range of interests, perspectives, expertise and education; socioeconomic backgrounds; communities; and geographic areas of this state. Authorizes ODOE to convene an advisory work group to inform the agency on its engagement with stakeholders and development of the state energy strategy. Requires ODOE to ensure that the state energy strategy reflects and is periodically updated to reflect the best available information, data analyses, and time horizons necessary to achieving the state's energy policy objectives. Requires ODOE to inform the Governor and Legislative Assembly when the department updates the state energy strategy. Authorizes ODOE to contract with third parties for assistance in performing the department's duties in section 1 of the Act, including assistance with technical or facilitation services. Directs all agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice to ODOE as the agency considers necessary to perform the department's duties under section 1 of the Act. Requires ODOE to **produce a report** regarding the state energy strategy that, at minimum: 1) summarizes the state energy strategy and optimized pathways to achieving the state's energy policy objectives; 2) describes the department's engagement process with stakeholders and how stakeholder perspectives informed the state energy strategy; and

3) recommends legislation or changes to policy necessary to implement the state energy strategy. Requires ODOE to submit the report to the Governor and the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than November 1, 2025. Repeals report requirement on January 2, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is to help “Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system.” ODOE also advances “solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.” In 2018, 2020, and 2022, ODOE produced a Biennial Energy Report that provided information and statistics about energy production and use, energy policy, and forecasts for the future. The 2022 report recommends that “Oregon would benefit from a strong statewide energy strategy to align policy development, regulations, financial investments, and technical assistance.” According to ODOE, several states, including Washington, Utah, and Wyoming, have developed and implemented statewide energy strategies.

House Bill 2534 would require the Oregon Department of Energy to work with a diverse group of stakeholders to identify areas of inquiry regarding energy and energy use in the state, develop research options, and to convene an advisory group to develop recommendations and benchmarks around energy and energy use in Oregon.