

**SB 220 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources**

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**Action Date:** 03/20/23

**Action:** Without recommendation as to passage and request referral to Ways and Means.

**Vote:** 3-2-0-0

**Yeas:** 3 - Golden, Prozanski, Taylor

**Nays:** 2 - Girod, Smith DB

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/1, 3/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes an Electronic Permitting System Development Subaccount for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to develop a modern, online electronic permitting system that allows the department to electronically manage customer relationships, issue permits, and receive applications and fees. Requires payment of an additional 25 percent surcharge on certain assessments, which is credited to the subaccount. Sunsets the surcharge on January 2, 2028, and sunsets the subaccount on June 30, 2031. Transfers any unobligated subaccount balance following repeal to the Electronic Permitting System Subaccount should Senate Bill 221 be enacted, or otherwise to the Mined Land Regulation and Reclamation Program Subaccount.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Disadvantages of current paper-based system
- Surcharge and General Fund options for funding an e-permitting system
- Applicability of surcharge to large industry and hobby miners alike
- History of recent fee increases for the industry, and associated e-permitting funding discussions

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is responsible for issuing permits related to mineral exploration, upland mining, surface impacts of underground mining, emergency or temporary mining, and drilling or using wells to extract oil, gas, or geothermal resources. Most mining projects in Oregon are aggregate surface mining for sand, gravel, and quarry rock. The regulatory program is primarily funded by permit fees that are paid by the regulated industry. DOGAMI currently has 1,300 active permits, of which over 500 are unique permit holders.

DOGAMI's permit, inspection, customer, and other business records, as well as the processes to handle them, remain in paper form. Both the agency and industry report long processing times that are at least in part attributable to the slow, paper-based processing of new permit applications, inspection records, records requests, permit renewals, and payments.

Senate Bill 220 would establish an Electronic Permitting System Development Subaccount for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to develop a modern, online electronic permitting system, funded by a 25 percent surcharge on certain assessments.