

SB 444 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 03/21/23

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Findley, Golden, Hayden, Lieber, Sollman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to establish a Recycling Innovators Grant Program to support the development of innovative and demonstrable solutions to complex recycling issues. Requires that grants only be used for reimbursement for capital investments or direct research and development expenses related to the creation of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities that use innovative technologies to reuse or recycle materials. Authorizes DEQ to establish priority materials. Requires eligible entity to demonstrate how materials will be collected, stored, and processed; how facilities and processes can be scaled to increase reuse or recycling regionally; that it is in compliance with state or federal law; and that it would be available to accept materials within 12 months of receiving grant. Prohibits grant awards from exceeding \$2 million. Establishes the Recycling Innovators Fund (Fund) and appropriates \$20,000,000 to Fund for purposes of carrying out Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of the types of projects that could be funded
- Quantity of programs that could be funded
- Interaction with Recycling Modernization Act (Senate Bill 582, 2021)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon Legislative Assembly 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 (DEQ) would report to the Legislative Assembly 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 Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 582 which established the 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 444 would direct DEQ to establish a Recycling Innovators Grant Program to award grants not exceeding \$2 million to support the development of innovative and demonstrable solutions to complex recycling issues. The Act would appropriate \$20,000,000 to the Recycling Innovators Fund to carry out the Act.