

HB 2170 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-1-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Helm, Kropf, Levy B, Levy E, Marsh, Osborne, Owens, Wallan

Nays: 1 - Pham K

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Requires Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study feasibility of establishing a renewable hydrogen hub, to include green electrolytic hydrogen, at the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay. Requires ODOE to consult with the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, Oregon Business Development Department, United States Department of Defense, United States Department of Energy, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Requires ODOE to submit a report outlining what actions may be taken toward establishing the renewable hydrogen hub at the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to energy and economic development no later than September 15, 2024. Sunsets study and reporting requirements on January 2, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Harnessing future offshore wind energy for renewable hydrogen production
- Other states' renewable hydrogen production facilities
- Federal programs to support renewable hydrogen hubs
- Definition of renewable hydrogen

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Defines “green electrolytic hydrogen,” “nonemitting electricity,” and “renewable hydrogen.” Modifies feasibility study requirements. Modifies the list of entities with which the Oregon Department of Energy is required to consult.

BACKGROUND:

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe, but on earth it rarely occurs naturally in its pure state. Instead, hydrogen is usually combined with other elements such as oxygen or carbon. Currently, most hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels, specifically natural gas. Electricity—from the grid or from renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, or biomass—is also currently used to produce hydrogen. According to the United States Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, in the longer term, solar energy and biomass can be used more directly to generate hydrogen. When produced from wind or other renewable resources, “renewable hydrogen” can store carbon-free energy that can later be used to generate electricity or power vehicles.

House Bill 2170 A requires the Oregon Department of Energy to study and report on the feasibility of establishing a renewable hydrogen hub at the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay.