

HB 3181 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water****Action Date:** 04/03/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 9-0-0-0**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/30, 4/3**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to establish the **Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Energy Siting process** (process) with the purpose of identifying: geographic characteristics, sizes, and locations in Oregon that are suitable and appropriate for siting renewable energy or transmission development based on specified criteria; factors that help minimize the geographic area needed for such development; and regulatory or policy changes or resources to streamline and expedite the renewable energy siting or transmission development process. Authorizes ODOE and DLCD to enter into intergovernmental agreements with other state agencies, tribal governments, and counties for purposes related to the process. Establishes the **Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Energy Siting Advisory Committee** (advisory committee) for the purpose of supporting the process and specifies its membership requirements, operational procedures, and required tasks. Authorizes ODOE and DLCD to contract with a third party or parties to provide support to the advisory committee including meeting coordination and facilitation, processes development and coordination, and furnishing data, maps, and technical assistance. Requires ODOE and DLCD to contract with a third party to **report** the work and recommendations of the advisory committee to an appropriate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2024. Requires ODOE to maintain and periodically update a **renewable energy siting assessment tool** with information from: inventories and mapping resources made available by federal agencies; regional, state, and local data and mapping projects; and sources and data identified by the advisory committee. Authorizes each county in eastern Oregon to, by January 1, 2026, adopt as part of the county's comprehensive plan, a **mapped** inventory of areas best suited for siting renewable energy facilities or transmission development corridors and to adopt amendments to the county's comprehensive plan or land use regulations to allow for expedited review of renewable energy facilities or transmission development corridors on inventoried lands. Specifies county authorizations and requirements associated with conducting the inventory. Requires **DLCD to provide financial assistance** to county and tribal governments related to participation in the advisory committee and specified aspects of renewable energy and transmission development. Sunsets financial assistance program on January 2, 2026. Directs **ODOE to provide financial and technical assistance** to assist public bodies, tribal governments, and community organizations to participate in certain activities related to renewable energy and transmission development. Requires ODOE to establish **grant program requirements**, application and selection procedures, terms and conditions, and verification procedures, and authorizes ODOE to adopt rules associated with the grant program. Authorizes the **Energy Facility Siting Council to review the grant program** and require that additional terms and conditions be added. Specifies that moneys collected through assessments imposed on energy resource suppliers may not be expended to provide financial or technical assistance associated with the grant program. Appropriates unspecified amounts of General Fund moneys to ODOE and DLCD for implementation.

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Appropriates \$500,000 and \$2 million General Fund moneys to ODOE and DLCD respectively to provide financial assistance according to their responsibilities described in the measure. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of flexibility in the land use system to respond to climate change
- Potential to build solar photovoltaic power generation plants in metro areas
- Benefits of large siting projects
- Protection of exclusive farm use zones

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 1547, which required that 50 percent of Oregon's electricity needs be met via renewable energy sources by 2040. In 2021, House Bill 2021 required that retail electricity providers provide 100 percent clean energy by 2040. Available renewable energy sources in Oregon include solar, wind, hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal, marine, renewable fuels, and hydrogen sources, the largest of which is hydropower which accounts for approximately 40 percent of Oregon's energy mix.

House Bill 3181 A would establish the Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Energy Siting Advisory Committee and direct the Oregon Department of Energy and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to establish the Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Energy Siting process and associated grant program to support participation.