

SB 726 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill to conduct surface emissions monitoring and report data as specified to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Requires the Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) to establish rules for surface emissions monitoring and mitigation of methane gas emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. Requires, as of July 1, 2026, an owner/operator of a municipal solid waste landfill required to conduct surface emissions monitoring to:

- use advanced methane detection technology to conduct surface emissions monitoring above all surface areas of the landfill;
- report results, including specific information to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
- maintain monitoring records for at least five years; and
- remoniter, after taking corrective action, within 10 days of any exceedance; and submit a mitigation plan to DEQ for approval if owner/operator cannot take corrective action because the exceedance is located within the active or working face of the landfill.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires the advanced methane detection technology used by the owner or operator of municipal solid waste landfill to use technology that meets minimum standards established by the Environmental Quality Commission. Extends the implementation date from July 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Landfill gas is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills and is composed of approximately 50 percent methane. Methane is more than 80 times as potent as carbon dioxide in the short-term according to DEQ. In October 2021, the Environmental Quality Commission adopted new rules which regulate landfill gas emissions. The rules require many landfills in Oregon to obtain an Air Contaminant Discharge Permit to submit data on the landfill characteristics and potentially monitor, collect and/or control landfill gas emissions.