

SB 1597 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires an electric utility, which includes a public utility, people's utility district, municipal utility, or cooperative, to disclose to its customers the costs recovered from ratepayers, of storing the waste produced by an energy facility in generating electricity. The Act also requires a person that is seeking to develop an energy facility, for the purpose of generating electricity to be sold to an electric utility, to disclose the cost of storing associated waste to the electric utility and the public. Senate Bill 1597 takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) approves rates that investor-owned electric utilities charge their customers. When deciding whether to approve a proposed rate adjustment, the PUC is required to ensure the change is fair and reasonable for utility customers while also allowing the utility service provider the opportunity to recover reasonable costs and earn a reasonable return on its investments.

Municipal or consumer-owned utilities rates are generally set by local boards, such as a city council or board of directors, rather than the PUC. These governing bodies establish rates to cover the cost of providing service, including power purchases, infrastructure maintenance, and debt service. The cost of storing energy-related waste would vary by the type of energy being generated.