

SB 1581 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires an investor-owned utility to report to the Legislature annually on any steps taken or being taken to participate in a regional energy market.

Detailed Summary:

Requires an investor-owned utility that sells more than two million megawatt hours of electricity in a calendar year to submit a report to the Legislature, no later than January 15th, on any plans or preparations the utility has taken or is taking, towards participating in a regional energy market. Applies to calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires an investor-owned utility that sells more than two million megawatt hours of electricity in a calendar year to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than January 15th of the following year on activities, including plans or preparations, that the investor-owned utility has taken or is taking toward participating in a regional energy market. Sunsets requirements January 2, 2034.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021 the Oregon State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 589, which required the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to report to the Legislature on the benefits, opportunities and, challenges posed by the development or expansion of a regional transmission organization (RTO) or regional energy market. According to the [Regional Transmission Organization Study: Oregon Perspectives](#), an RTO is an “independent, nonprofit organization that operates and ensures reliability of the bulk power system and optimizes supply and demand for wholesale electricity.” In Oregon, utilities individually perform these functions for their territories. There are seven RTO’s operating in the United States.