
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1172

AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY GENERATED FROM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to revise the state-wide solid waste management plan to incorporate the findings and implement the recommendations in the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's (PURA) report in Docket No. 22-10-07. She must do this by January 1, 2024, and regardless of the requirement for the plan to prioritize managing solid waste in the following order: source reduction; recycling; composting of yard waste or vegetable matter; bulky waste recycling; resource recovery or waste-to-energy (WTE) plants; incineration; and landfilling.

The bill also requires the revised plan to include planning and policy recommendations for (1) contract-enabling legislation to provide a stable energy value for trash-to-energy facilities, (2) incentives to retain existing trash-to-energy facilities or build new ones, and (3) a procurement plan to select a trash-to-energy project.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

PURA's Report in Docket No. 22-10-07

As a member of the Solid Waste Management Working Group created by SA 22-11, PURA's chairperson initiated this docket to examine and analyze potential WTE pricing and contracting mechanisms for the state. Submitted to the legislature on February 10, 2023, the subsequent report examined, among other things, issues with (1) the current WTE business model, (2) the need for certain incentives to build new WTE facilities and support existing ones, and (3) structural considerations for various types of contracts.

The report offered the following steps for the working group to consider next:

1. reevaluate or confirm WTE's position in the state's codified waste management hierarchy;
2. determine if it is necessary to incentivize existing WTE facilities, building new ones, or both;
3. issue guidance on the weighting of certain contract type metrics;
4. adopt WTE contract-enabling legislation depending on the state's waste management strategy and the preferred contract structure; and
5. direct a state agency (typically DEEP) to conduct a request for proposals and select projects with further electricity pricing discovery done through the competitive solicitation.

Related Bill

sSB 1143, reported favorably by the Environment Committee, requires the DEEP commissioner to (1) submit any proposed revision to the state-wide solid waste management plan or Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy to the legislature for approval and (2) issue a request for information (RFI) about systems to process solid waste that is not otherwise diverted from the state's solid waste stream according to these documents. The RFI must seek information on gasification systems that convert solid waste into gas through a chemical reaction that does not consist of burning, but not information on systems that incinerate or combust solid waste or any form of landfilling.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2023)