

SB 5535

Public Utility Commission

SB 5535 is the budget bill for the Public Utility Commission. The PUC regulates rates and services offered in Oregon by investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, telecommunications companies, and certain water companies. The agency sets and enforces price and service rules that protect consumers, ensures that pipelines, power lines, and other energy facilities operate safely and reliably, oversees the performance of the Energy Trust of Oregon, and provides administrative support to the Board of Maritime Pilots. The agency is funded with revenue generated from utility and telecommunications fees and from federal funds for pipeline safety programs.

The Transportation and Economic Development subcommittee recommends a budget of \$44,333,835 Other Funds, \$66,279,866 Non-limited Other Funds, \$698,049 Federal Funds, and 128 positions, or 125.47 full-time equivalent jobs. This recommendation includes one policy option package that increases the Board of Maritime Pilots' executive director position from 0.5 to 1.0 FTE, and increases Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$120,374 to cover the expense. The Subcommittee also recommends adoption of Key Performance Measures as presented.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 5535 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.