

SB 68 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 1/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases annual fee imposed on public utilities and telecommunications providers for purposes of defraying costs of Public Utility Commission from 0.3 percent to 0.45 percent of utility's gross operating revenues derived within the state. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) is a three-member commission appointed by the governor and responsible for regulating Oregon's investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities and select water companies. Current statute requires each public utility and telecommunications provider to pay an annual fee to the PUC to defray the costs of regulating the industry. The PUC collects fees from three investor-owned electric utilities, three natural gas utilities, roughly 80 regulated water utilities, and roughly 440 telecommunication utilities. These annual fees fund the majority of the PUC's operating expenditures. Nice info.

Senate Bill 68 increases the maximum annual fee from 0.3 percent to 0.45 percent of the utility's gross operating revenues derived within the state.