

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3065

Ordered by the House April 5
Including House Amendments dated April 5

Sponsored by Representatives MARSH, RESCHKE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Public Utility Commission to establish public process for investigating continuing relevance of telecommunications carrier of last resort obligations.

Requires commission to submit report on investigation, which may include recommendations for legislation, to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to economic development and business and general government no later than September 15, 2020.

Sunset January 2, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to carrier of last resort obligations.

3 Whereas technological innovation has altered the telecommunications industry across the
4 United States and in Oregon; and

5 Whereas this technological innovation, as well as changing consumer preferences, potentially
6 brings into question the relevance of certain telecommunications regulatory requirements; now,
7 therefore,

8 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

9 **SECTION 1. (1) The Public Utility Commission shall establish a public process for the**
10 **purpose of investigating the continuing relevance of the carrier of last resort obligations**
11 **provided for under ORS 759.500 to 759.570. The investigation shall focus on whether develop-**
12 **ing industry trends, technologies and policy drivers in the telecommunications sector impact**
13 **the existing regulatory system administered by the commission for ensuring adequate and**
14 **reasonable access for residential customers to telecommunications service in all areas of this**
15 **state.**

16 **(2) As part of the public process established under subsection (1) of this section, the**
17 **commission shall investigate changes to the existing regulatory system and incentives that**
18 **could accommodate developing industry trends and support new policy objectives without**
19 **compromising residential customers' access to reliable and safe service at just and reason-**
20 **able prices in an adequate and nondiscriminatory manner. The investigation required by this**
21 **subsection shall specifically focus on:**

22 **(a) Customers whose individual circumstances and needs may impact their access to and**
23 **usage of telecommunications services, including low-income customers;**

24 **(b) Residential customers with access at their domicile to fewer than two of the following**
25 **terrestrial-based service alternatives:**

26 **(A) Telecommunications services provided by a facilities-based competitive local exchange**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **carrier;**

2 **(B) Voice service offered via interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol; or**

3 **(C) Voice service offered by a cellular communications service; and**

4 **(c) The comparability of voice service offered by wireless Internet service providers and**
5 **satellite providers.**

6 **(3) If the commission determines that changes to the existing regulatory system and in-**
7 **centives would be in the interest of residential customers and the public generally, the**
8 **commission shall develop plans to administratively implement changes to the regulatory**
9 **system and incentives within its existing statutory authority or shall make recommendations**
10 **to the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of legislatively implementing changes to the**
11 **regulatory system and incentives.**

12 **(4) As part of the public process established under subsection (1) of this section, the**
13 **commission shall:**

14 **(a) Solicit input from:**

15 **(A) All telephony providers, including telecommunications utilities, cooperative corpo-**
16 **rations and municipalities certified by the commission to provide local exchange telecom-**
17 **munications service;**

18 **(B) The Citizens' Utility Board;**

19 **(C) Residents of, or groups who represent, residents of rural areas of this state;**

20 **(D) Advocates for low income persons; and**

21 **(E) Senior citizens; and**

22 **(b) Provide the public with an opportunity to comment.**

23 **(5) The commission shall submit a report on the findings of the public process established**
24 **under subsection (1) of this section and the progress of investigations conducted under sub-**
25 **section (2) of this section in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees**
26 **of the Legislative Assembly related to economic development and business and general gov-**
27 **ernment no later than September 15, 2020. The commission may include, as part of the**
28 **commission's report, recommendations for legislation.**

29 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2021.**

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