

Chair Lively,

I just reviewed the discussion during the HB 3256 hearing on 03/25, and it's fair to say there's confusion re: the -1 amendment. While I hope to meet with members in advance of the carryover hearing, and am more than happy to be available for questions during, I went ahead and shared the following points with members to help resolve the apparent confusion:

- The -1 amendment **does** compel the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) to open a discrete investigation for the purpose of determining potential improvements to the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP). The PUC administers that program for the purpose of helping households with low incomes cover the cost of their traditional telephone, wireless, or broadband service.
- The -1 amendment **does not** "move" or alter in any way the surcharge that pays for the Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF).
- The discrete investigation compelled by the -1 amendment **does not** in any way implicate other programs funded through the RSPF.
- The Oregon Broadband Office **does not** have any role or responsibility regarding OTAP, or PUC/RSPF programs more generally.
- The -1 amendment **does** instruct the PUC to collaborate with the Oregon Broadband Office because the Oregon Broadband Office, which staffs the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council (also named), has appropriate expertise that may inform the PUC's discrete investigation.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or context in advance of the carryover hearing. I do apologize for not inoculating the confusion re: the -1 in advance of the 03/25 hearing.

Best,

Sam P.
Advocacy Manager
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board