

HOUSE MINORITY REPORT AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2475

By Nonconcurring Members of COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

March 9

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after the semicolon insert “creating new provisions; and”.

2 On page 2, delete lines 27 through 45 and delete page 3 and insert:

3 “**SECTION 3.** ORS 757.072 is amended to read:

4 “757.072. (1) A public utility providing electricity or natural gas may enter into a written
5 agreement with an organization that represents broad customer interests in regulatory proceedings
6 conducted by the Public Utility Commission relating to public utilities that provide electricity or
7 natural gas. The agreement shall govern the manner in which financial assistance may be provided
8 to the organization. The agreement may provide for financial assistance to other organizations found
9 by the commission to be qualified under subsection (2) of this section. More than one public utility
10 or organization may join in a single agreement. Any agreement entered into under this section must
11 be approved by the commission before any financial assistance is provided under the agreement.

12 “(2)(a) **Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection**, financial assistance under an
13 agreement entered into under this section may be provided only to organizations that represent
14 broad customer interests in regulatory proceedings before the commission relating to **the rates and**
15 **terms and conditions of service of public utilities that provide electricity or natural gas.**

16 “(b) **In addition to the organizations described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, in**
17 **regulatory proceedings before the commission relating to the rates and terms and conditions**
18 **of service of public utilities that provide electricity or natural gas, financial assistance under**
19 **an agreement entered into under this section may be provided to organizations that repre-**
20 **sent the interests of:**

21 “(A) **Low-income residential customers; or**

22 “(B) **Small commercial customers.**

23 “(c) The commission by rule shall establish such qualifications as the commission deems appro-
24 priate for determining which organizations are eligible for financial assistance under an agreement
25 entered into under this section.

26 “(3) In administering an agreement entered into under this section, the commission by rule or
27 order may determine:

28 “(a) The amount of financial assistance that may be provided to any organization;

29 “(b) The manner in which the financial assistance will be distributed;

30 “(c) The manner in which the financial assistance will be recovered in the rates of the public
31 utility under subsection (4) of this section; and

32 “(d) Other matters necessary to administer the agreement.

33 “(4)(a) **Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection**, the commission shall
34 allow a public utility that provides financial assistance under this section to recover the amounts

1 so provided in rates. The commission shall allow a public utility to defer inclusion of those amounts
2 in rates as provided in ORS 757.259 if the public utility so elects. An agreement under this section
3 may not provide for payment of any amounts to the commission.

4 **“(b) The amount of financial assistance to organizations described in subsection (2)(b) of
5 this section cumulatively recovered in the rates of all public utilities may not exceed \$500,000
6 annually. For each calendar year beginning on or after January 1, 2023, the commission shall
7 adjust the dollar amount limitation set forth in this paragraph to reflect any percentage in-
8 crease in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as
9 published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.**

10 **“(c)(A) The commission may not allow a public utility to recover in rates charged to
11 customers that are not residential customers the amounts of financial assistance provided
12 under this section to organizations described in subsection (2)(b)(A) of this section.**

13 **“(B) The commission may not allow a public utility to recover in rates charged to cus-
14 tomers that are not small commercial customers the amounts of financial assistance pro-
15 vided under this section to organizations described in subsection (2)(b)(B) of this section.**

16 **“SECTION 4. The Public Utility Commission shall, no later than September 15, 2025,
17 provide a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to energy
18 that discusses, for the period beginning on the effective date of this 2021 Act and ending
19 December 31, 2024, the implementation and impacts of the amendments to ORS 757.072 by
20 section 3 of this 2021 Act. The report shall include, but need not be limited to:**

21 **“(1) A description of any rules, orders, processes or polices adopted or established by the
22 commission as necessary to implement the amendments to ORS 757.072 by section 3 of this
23 2021 Act; and**

24 **“(2) A detailed description of the organizations described in ORS 757.072 (2)(b)(A) and (B)
25 that received funding during the period subject to reporting that includes, for each organ-
26 ization, a description of:**

27 **“(a) The proceedings for which the organization received financial assistance;**

28 **“(b) The amount of financial assistance received by the organization for each proceeding;**

29 **“(c) The issues raised by the organization in each proceeding for which the organization
30 received financial assistance; and**

31 **“(d) The outcome within each proceeding with regard to the issues described in para-
32 graph (c) of this subsection.**

33 **“SECTION 5. Section 4 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.”.**

34 /s/ Mark Owens
35 Representative

36 /s/ David Brock Smith
37 Representative