

## SENATE AMENDMENTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS TO B-ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2739

By COMMITTEE ON RULES

June 26

1 On page 1 of the printed B-engrossed bill, line 3, after “757.612” insert “and section 15, chapter  
2 \_\_\_\_, Oregon Laws 2021 (Enrolled House Bill 3141)”.

3 On page 2, after line 24, insert:

4 “**SECTION 2a.** Section 15, chapter \_\_\_\_, Oregon Laws 2021 (Enrolled House Bill 3141), is  
5 amended to read:

6 “**Sec. 15.** (1) An electric company, as defined in ORS 757.600, or Oregon Community Power shall  
7 collect funds for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance in an amount determined by  
8 the Public Utility Commission. The commission shall:

9 “(a) Establish the amount to be collected and rates to be charged by each electric company from  
10 its customers, including customers receiving electricity from other sources, such that the forecasted  
11 collection by all electric companies in a calendar year is at least \$20 million.

12 “(b) Adjust the rates if forecasted collections or actual collections are less than \$20 million in  
13 any calendar year but shall not otherwise adjust the rates once set.

14 “(c) Ensure that no customer pays more than \$500 per month per customer site for low-income  
15 electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

16 “(2) Funds collected by an electric company or Oregon Community Power under this section  
17 [*shall*] **must** be:

18 “(a) Paid into the Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Pay-  
19 ment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2);

20 “(b) Used by the Housing and Community Services Department solely for purposes related to  
21 low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance and for the Housing and Community Services  
22 Department’s cost of administering this section; and

23 “(c) Expended in the service area of the electric company or Oregon Community Power from  
24 which the funds are collected.

25 “(3) The Housing and Community Services Department shall determine the manner in which  
26 funds collected under this [*subsection*] **section** are allocated by the department to energy assistance  
27 program providers for the purpose of providing low-income electric bill payment and crisis assist-  
28 ance. However, the department shall:

29 “(a) In consultation with electric companies, investigate and may implement alternative delivery  
30 models to effectively reduce service disconnections and related costs to customers and electric  
31 companies; and

32 “(b) Direct priority assistance to low-income customers who are in danger of having their elec-  
33 tricity service disconnected.

34 “(4) The department shall maintain records and provide those records upon request to an elec-  
35 tric company, Oregon Community Power and the Citizens’ Utility Board established under ORS

1 chapter 774 on a quarterly basis. Records maintained must include the numbers of low-income cus-  
2 tomers served, the average amounts paid and the type of assistance provided. Electric companies  
3 and Oregon Community Power shall, if requested, provide the department with aggregate data re-  
4 lating to low-income customers served on a quarterly basis to support program development.

5 “(5) Interest on moneys deposited in the Housing and Community Services Department Low-  
6 Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2) may be used to pro-  
7 vide bill payment and crisis assistance to customers whose primary source of heat is not electricity.

8 “(6) Notwithstanding ORS 757.310, the commission may allow an electric company or Oregon  
9 Community Power to provide reduced rates or other bill payment or crisis assistance or low-income  
10 program assistance to a low-income household eligible for assistance under the federal Low Income  
11 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended and in effect on July 23, 1999.”

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