

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3256

Ordered by the House April 8
Including House Amendments dated April 8

Sponsored by Representative MARSH

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 study laws related to telecommunications and provide results to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.]
[Sunsets January 2, 2023.]

Establishes Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to State Library for purpose of providing matching funds for federal moneys received by certain libraries for providing broadband access. Requires State Library Board to adopt certain rules before distributing moneys in fund.

Directs Public Utility Commission, in consultation with certain other state agencies, to investigate and make recommendations on feasibility of expanding Oregon Telephone Assistance Program and applying residential service surcharge to support access to broadband internet access service or other telecommunication services. Requires commission to submit report to appropriate interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to telecommunications; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund is established in the State**
5 **Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Connecting**
6 **Oregon Libraries Fund shall be credited to the fund.**

7 **(2) The Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund consists of any moneys deposited in the fund**
8 **from whatever source and may include moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or trans-**
9 **ferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and interest earned on moneys**
10 **in the fund.**

11 **(3) The moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Library for the**
12 **purpose of providing matching funds for federal moneys received by the State Library, the**
13 **State Library Board, public libraries established in accordance with ORS 357.410, school li-**
14 **braries, tribal libraries as defined in ORS 357.206 or academic libraries in Oregon for the**
15 **purpose of providing broadband access to eligible library facilities in this state.**

16 **(4) A public, school, tribal or academic library is eligible to receive matching funds under**
17 **this section if the library:**

18 **(a) Receives federal moneys for the purpose of providing broadband access to the library;**

19 **(b) Takes steps to determine whether existing broadband infrastructure, including fiber-**
20 **based broadband, may be integrated into the proposed broadband access project; and**

21 **(c) Meets any other eligibility requirements established by the State Library Board by**

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 rule.

2 (5)(a) Before the State Library may distribute any state moneys under this section, the
3 board shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section, including rules setting
4 criteria that govern the distribution of the moneys to eligible libraries.

5 (b) Rules adopted under this section must take into consideration any eligibility require-
6 ments established by the federal program awarding federal moneys.

7 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Public Utility Commission, in consultation with the Oregon
8 Broadband Office, the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council and the Oregon Telephone As-
9 sistance Program Advisory Committee, shall investigate and make recommendations on the
10 feasibility of:

11 (a) Expanding or increasing the plan of assistance established under section 6, chapter
12 290, Oregon Laws 1987, to support adequate and reasonable access to broadband internet
13 access service or other telecommunication services by residential customers with low in-
14 comes in this state; and

15 (b) Applying the surcharge assessed under ORS 759.685 to support expanded access to
16 broadband internet access service or other telecommunication services.

17 (2) As part of the investigation required under subsection (1) of this section, the com-
18 mission shall consider barriers faced by residential customers with low incomes to obtaining
19 broadband internet access service or other telecommunication services that include but may
20 not be limited to:

21 (a) Equipment and related services needed to obtain and utilize broadband internet access
22 service or other telecommunication services;

23 (b) Legal and regulatory incentives and limitations that may affect the state's ability to
24 expand or increase the plan of assistance or the associated surcharge to support expanded
25 access to broadband internet access service or other telecommunication services; and

26 (c) The availability of other forms of federal, state or local support for broadband inter-
27 net access service or other telecommunication services.

28 (3) The commission shall submit a report on its findings to an appropriate interim com-
29 mittee of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.

30 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2022.

31 **SECTION 4.** This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021
32 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
33