

Senate Bill 615

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK (Pre-session filed.)

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 **as introduced**.

Establishes Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund. Directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish by rule program, to be administered by Oregon Broadband Office, for providing broadband bill payment assistance to low income households.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to broadband.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund is established**
5 **in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the**
6 **Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund shall be credited to the fund.**

7 **(2) The fund shall consist of all moneys placed in the fund as provided by law and any**
8 **gifts, grants, donations, endowments or bequests from any public or private source.**

9 **(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Develop-**
10 **ment Department to distribute moneys through, and to administer the program required by,**
11 **section 2 of this 2021 Act.**

12 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "broadband" has the meaning given that term in**
13 **ORS 276A.406.**

14 **(2) The Oregon Business Development Department shall by rule establish a program, to**
15 **be administered by the Oregon Broadband Office, for distributing moneys deposited in the**
16 **Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund to provide broadband bill payment**
17 **assistance to low income households.**

18 **(3) In developing the program required by this section, the Oregon Business Development**
19 **Department shall consult, coordinate and collaborate with the Oregon Broadband Advisory**
20 **Council and the Housing and Community Services Department and shall take into consider-**
21 **ation:**

22 **(a) Broadband services and operations provided by the State Chief Information Officer**
23 **under ORS 276A.406 (2)(b);**

24 **(b) Opportunities to coordinate with other state, federal or privately funded low income**
25 **bill payment and crisis assistance programs; and**

26 **(c) State grant or loan programs related to the planning and development of broadband**
27 **service infrastructure, digital literacy including cybersecurity, digital inclusion and digital**
28 **adoption.**

29 **(4) The program adopted pursuant to this section may allow for moneys deposited in the**
30 **Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund to be allocated by the Oregon**
31 **Broadband Office to qualified nonprofit community-based organizations, including but not**

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 **limited to housing authorities and community action agencies, for the purpose of providing**
2 **low income broadband bill payment assistance.**

3 _____