

Requested by Representative SMITH DB

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 2475**

1 On page 2 of the printed bill, delete lines 27 through 45 and delete page
2 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 en-
5 ter into a written agreement with an organization that represents broad
6 customer interests in regulatory proceedings conducted by the Public Utility
7 Commission relating to public utilities that provide electricity or natural
8 gas. The agreement shall govern the manner in which financial assistance
9 may be provided to the organization. The agreement may provide for finan-
10 cial assistance to other organizations found by the commission to be quali-
11 fied under subsection (2) of this section. More than one public utility or
12 organization may join in a single agreement. Any agreement entered into
13 under this section must be approved by the commission before any financial
14 assistance is provided under the agreement.

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

21 **“(b) In addition to the organizations described in paragraph (a) of**

1 **this subsection, in regulatory proceedings before the commission re-**
2 **lating to the rates and terms and conditions of service of public utili-**
3 **ties that provide electricity or natural gas, financial assistance under**
4 **an agreement entered into under this section may be provided to or-**
5 **ganizations that represent the interests of:**

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

7 **“(B) Residential customers that are members of environmental**
8 **justice communities.**

9 **“(c) The commission by rule shall establish such qualifications as the**
10 **commission deems appropriate for determining which organizations are eli-**
11 **gible for financial assistance under an agreement entered into under this**
12 **section.**

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

15 **“(a) The amount of financial assistance that may be provided to any or-**
16 **ganization;**

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

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

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

21 **“(4)(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this sub-**
22 **section, the commission shall allow a public utility that provides financial**
23 **assistance under this section to recover the amounts so provided in rates.**
24 **The commission shall allow a public utility to defer inclusion of those**
25 **amounts in rates as provided in ORS 757.259 if the public utility so elects.**
26 **An agreement under this section may not provide for payment of any**
27 **amounts to the commission.**

28 **“(b) The amount of financial assistance to organizations that rep-**
29 **resent the interests of residential customers cumulatively recovered**
30 **in the rates of all public utilities may not exceed \$500,000 annually.**

1 **For each calendar year beginning on or after January 1, 2023, the**
2 **commission shall adjust the dollar amount limitation set forth in this**
3 **paragraph to reflect any percentage increase in the Consumer Price**
4 **Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published**
5 **by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of**
6 **Labor.**

7 **“(c) The commission may not allow a public utility to recover in**
8 **rates charged to customers that are not residential customers the**
9 **amounts of financial assistance provided under this section to organ-**
10 **izations described in subsection (2)(b) of this section.”.**

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