

Requested by SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS TO
B-ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2739**

1 On page 1 of the printed B-engrossed bill, line 3, after “757.612” insert
2 “and section 15, chapter ___, 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
5 House Bill 3141), is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

21 “(a) Paid into the Housing and Community Services Department Low-

1 Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587
2 (2);

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

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

9 “(3) The Housing and Community Services Department shall determine
10 the manner in which funds collected under this [subsection] **section** are al-
11 located by the department to energy assistance program providers for the
12 purpose of providing low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.
13 However, the department shall:

14 “(a) In consultation with electric companies, investigate and may imple-
15 ment alternative delivery models to effectively reduce service disconnections
16 and related costs to customers and electric companies; and

17 “(b) Direct priority assistance to low-income customers who are in danger
18 of having their electricity service disconnected.

19 “(4) The department shall maintain records and provide those records
20 upon request to an electric company, Oregon Community Power and the
21 Citizens’ Utility Board established under ORS chapter 774 on a quarterly
22 basis. Records maintained must include the numbers of low-income customers
23 served, the average amounts paid and the type of assistance provided. Elec-
24 tric companies and Oregon Community Power shall, if requested, provide the
25 department with aggregate data relating to low-income customers served on
26 a quarterly basis to support program development.

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

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

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