

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 3459

By COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

April 4

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, before the period insert “; amending sections 3 and 4,  
2 chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021”.

3 Delete lines 4 through 25 and delete pages 2 and 3 and insert:

4 “**SECTION 1.** Section 3, chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021, is amended to read:

5 “**Sec. 3.** (1) In addition to the funds collected pursuant to [*section 2 (1) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS**  
6 **757.698 (1)** and subject to the limitation set forth in [*section 2 (1)(c) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698**  
7 **(1)(e)**, the Public Utility Commission shall provide for, through rates charged to all customers of  
8 electric companies, as defined in ORS 757.600, collection of [~~\$10~~] **\$5** million per calendar year for  
9 low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

10 “(2) Notwithstanding [*section 2 (1) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698 (1)**, the rates established by the  
11 commission for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance may not be less than the rates  
12 in effect on [*the effective date of this 2021 Act*] **January 1, 2022**.

13 “(3) Notwithstanding [*section 2 (3) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698 (3)**, for purposes of the addi-  
14 tional amounts collected pursuant to this section, the Housing and Community Services Department  
15 shall[.:]

16 “[*(a) Ensure that the additional amounts collected respond to and are delivered to customers of*  
17 *electric companies who have lost income due to circumstances arising from the disease caused by the*  
18 *severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2); and*]

19 “[*(b)* design delivery of the additional amounts in alignment with existing energy assistance  
20 programs but broaden income eligibility and benefit levels such that:

21 “[*(A)*] **(a)** Income eligibility is expanded to households at or below 80 percent of area median  
22 income; **and**

23 “[*(B)*] *Standard household benefit levels may be increased to account for utility arrearages directly*  
24 *related to employment, income or health effects of SARS-CoV-2; and*]

25 “[*(C)*] **(b)** Persons already enrolled in or receiving state-administered, low-income assistance  
26 from programs determined by the department, including but not limited to through the federal Low  
27 Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), are automatically eligible for  
28 low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

29 “**SECTION 2.** Section 4, chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021, is amended to read:

30 “**Sec. 4.** Section 3 [*of this 2021 Act*], **chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021**, is repealed on January  
31 2, [~~2024~~] **2026**.”.

32