

HB 2985 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies provisions relating to the administrative proceedings of the Oregon Public Utility Commission. It also repeals Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 756.450 (declaratory rulings); 756.512 (notice of complaint to defendant; responsive pleadings; and setting cause for hearing); 756.521 (public hearings; record required; and furnishing transcripts); and 756.543 (issuance of subpoenas and failure to comply).

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment specifies in section 5 of the Act that certain provisions relating to contested cases do not apply to proceedings in which the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) does not finally determine the individual rights, duties, or privileges of any party and has not otherwise by rule or order provided for hearings substantially of the character required by certain Oregon Revised Statutes.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) is the state's regulatory body for investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities, as well as certain water companies. The agency also provides safety regulation of cooperatives, people's utility districts, and municipally owned utilities. The OPUC's Administrative Hearings Division is responsible for conducting hearings and writing orders for cases that fall under the agency's jurisdiction. The Division utilizes administrative law judges to operate the hearings process in two types of proceedings: judicial-type contested cases and legislative-type rulemaking. Contested cases can apply to each of the regulated industries. Administrative decisions by the OPUC can be appealed to the Court of Appeals.