

SB 926 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure prohibits an electric company from recovering from ratepayers the costs and expenses arising from wildfire liability.

Detailed Summary

- Defines an “electric company” to mean a company that is not consumer-owned and provides electricity to 25,000 or more Oregon customers.
- Prohibits such electric companies from recovering from its customers costs or expenses that:
 - Are associated with fines or penalties based on allegations of negligence or misconduct that resulted in a wildfire.
 - Are associated with a judgment or settlement of a civil action based on allegations of negligence or misconduct that resulted in a wildfire.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Utility companies in Oregon must apply with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before raising consumer prices/rates. When deciding whether to approve a requested rate adjustment, the PUC must ensure the change is fair and reasonable for utility customers while also allowing the utility service provider to recover reasonable costs and earn a reasonable return on its investments. The PUC uses a quasi-judicial investigation to examine a utility's operating expenses, investments, and capital costs and thereby determine the extent to which these costs can be passed along to consumers through increased rates.