

## HB 2065 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 4/8

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires individuals to have the option, when applying to a public utility for authority to interconnect a community renewable energy project or microgrid with the public utility's transmission or distribution system, to either agree to have the public utility or contract with a third-party consultant to conduct a required study or engineering evaluation of the interconnection.

##### Detailed summary:

Defines terms. Requires individuals to have the option, when applying to a public utility for authority to interconnect a community renewable energy project or microgrid with the public utility's transmission or distribution system and the public utility concludes that the proposed interconnection requires a study or engineering evaluation, to either:

- 1) agree to have the public utility conduct the study or evaluation or
- 2) contract with a third-party consultant to conduct the study or evaluation, subject to the public utility's reasonable review and approval of the study or evaluation.

Provides criteria for conducting the study, consulting with third parties, and reporting requirements. Excludes interconnections between a community renewable energy project or microgrid and a public utility that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment adds new requirements and activities for third-party consultants and public utilities to comply with and undertake when entering contractual agreements related to microgrid and community microgrid interconnection studies.

##### Detailed summary:

Adds, removes, and modifies definitions.

Replaces references to "community renewable energy projects" with "community microgrid."

Adds new requirements and activities for third-party consultants and public utilities to comply with and undertake when entering contractual agreements.

- *FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

-2 The amendment modifies definition of public utility to mean a utility regulated by the Public Utility Commission that provides electric power to **more than 25,000 customers in this state.**

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) regulates investor-owned utilities and is responsible for ensuring utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality utility services at just and reasonable rates. The scope and mandate of the OPUC is determined by the Legislative Assembly, which requires the Commission to balance the interests of customers and utilities by ensuring that rates are both fair and provide adequate revenue for utilities to be financially sound (Oregon Revised Statute 756.040).