

HB 2065 A -A4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 6/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes requirements for public utilities regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to support the interconnection of microgrids and community microgrids with their transmission or distribution systems. When a utility determines that an interconnection requires a study or engineering evaluation, applicants may choose to have the study conducted either by the utility or by a third-party consultant approved by the utility. Utilities must provide necessary technical data within 21 days of request, designate a liaison to support design coordination, and respond to preliminary design submissions within 30 days. Applications based on compliant designs must receive final decisions within 90 days. The measure limits application denials to issues of safety, reliability, or noncompliance with published standards and excludes interconnections under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A4 The measure increases the Public Utility Commission's 2025–27 Other Funds expenditure limit by \$335,136.

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).