

**HB 3148 A BUDGET REPORT and MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

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**Public Utility Commission  
2025-27**

### **Budget Summary\***

	2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget <sup>(1)</sup>	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Committee Recommendation	Committee Change from 2023-25 Leg. Approved	
				\$ Change	% Change
Other Funds Limited	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,977,012	\$ 1,977,012	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,977,012	\$ 1,977,012	100.0%

### **Position Summary**

#### **Public Utility Commission**

Authorized Positions	0	0	1	1
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.92

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes adjustments through January 2025

\* Excludes Capital Construction expenditures

### **Summary of Revenue Changes**

House Bill 3148 increases Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Public Utility Commission (PUC) by \$2 million for adjustments to the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program, which the measure renames the Oregon Lifeline Plan. Funding will come from surcharge-subject lines and instruments in the Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF), which are projected to remain at five million lines and instruments per month over the next two biennia.

### **Summary of Capital Construction Subcommittee Action**

House Bill 3148 makes adjustments to PUC's low-income telecommunications assistance plan, renamed in the measure as the Oregon Lifeline Plan. Originally called the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program, the program is the state counterpart to a federal lifeline program and provides telecommunication services for low-income and physically challenged citizens in conjunction with other RSPF programs. In early 2024, the Federal Communications Commission ended the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) due to a lack of funding. ACP offered eligible households with low incomes a one-time device discount of \$100 toward the purchase of a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer. The measure proposes to fill the gap left at the federal level by creating a one-time computing device benefit of up to \$100 for eligible low-income customers to purchase a new or used internet-enabled computing device. Customers who are eligible for the Oregon Lifeline benefit in the form of a discount, will also be eligible for the one-time personal computing device of up to \$100.

This measure increases RSPF Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$2 million total, in detail below:

- \$1.2 million to implement the device allowance for a projected 12,132 customers by the end of the 2025-27 biennium. Approximately \$0.1 million of this funding is anticipated to be ongoing for new customers in the 2027-29 biennium.
- \$0.5 million to cover the \$5 Oregon Lifeline Program reimbursement increase to the current \$10 rate, likely effective September 2025, as well as the estimated monthly growth resulting from program expansion.
- \$43,216 for regular audits to provide accountability for the increase in funding and activity.
- \$0.2 million for a permanent, full-time Program Analyst 3 position to administer and recommend priorities and strategies for the Oregon Lifeline Plan.

PRELIMINARY

## DETAIL OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ACTION

Public Utility Commission  
Kendra Beck – 503-400-4747

DESCRIPTION	GENERAL FUND	LOTTERY FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS		FEDERAL FUNDS		TOTAL ALL FUNDS	POS	FTE	
			LIMITED	NONLIMITED	LIMITED	NONLIMITED				
<b>Public Utility Commission</b>										
<u>SUBCOMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS</u>										
<b>SCR 003 - Residential Service Protection</b>										
Personal Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 222,695	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	222,695	1	0.92	
Services and Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,754,317	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1,754,317			
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,977,012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1,977,012	1	0.92	
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,977,012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1,977,012	1	0.92	

\*Excludes Capital Construction Expenditures