

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 3148

Relating to the availability of residential telecommunication services for low-income customers

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Capital Construction Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Brock Smith

HB 3148 expands the Oregon Lifeline plan to include a one-time personal computing device benefit of \$100 for eligible low-income customers to purchase a new or used Internet-enabled computing device, including desktop, laptop, or tablet. The measure removes the January 1, 2030, sunset date for the Oregon Lifeline plan. Funding for the Oregon Lifeline plan comes from a monthly surcharge, not to exceed \$0.35 per month, that is applied to retail subscribers with telephone, cellular, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service.

The amendment increases the Public Utility Commission's expenditure limitation by \$2 million Other Funds for the Oregon Lifeline plan. The measure also includes funding for one permanent, full-time position to manage the implementation and administration of the personal computing device benefit, and funding for biennial auditing of the Oregon Lifeline plan.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends HB 3148 be amended by the –A3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.