

## HB 2065 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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**Action Date:** 04/08/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 11-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 11 - Andersen, Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Neron, Osborne, Owens

**Nays:** 1 - Wallan

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

**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 microgrid 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 microgrid or community 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

- agree to have the public utility conduct the study or evaluation, or
- 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. Allows the third-party consultant, if a person contracts with a third-party consultant to conduct a study or evaluation, to

- submit a written request to a public utility for all technical data necessary to conduct the study or evaluation. Provides timeline for and criteria under which the public utility provides the technical data.
- submit to a public utility a preliminary design, including certain elements, for review by the public utility.

Establishes that a public utility has sole authority to approve or deny an application to interconnect a microgrid or community microgrid with the public utility's transmission or distribution system. Excludes interconnections between a community microgrid 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:

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:

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

## **HB 2065 A    STAFF MEASURE 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.

### **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).

According to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office, microgrids can be comprised of various electricity-generation sources, including fossil- or renewable-based sources; can include battery energy storage of various sizes; and have control systems that allow them to be disconnected and reconnected to the main grid as needed.