

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 3792

By COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

April 15

1 In line 2 of the printed bill, after “ratepayers” insert “; amending ORS 757.698”.

2 Delete lines 4 through 8 and insert:

3 “**SECTION 1.** ORS 757.698 is amended to read:

4 “757.698. (1) An electric company, as defined in ORS 757.600, or Oregon Community Power shall
5 collect funds for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance in an amount determined by
6 the Public Utility Commission. The commission shall:

7 “(a) Establish the amount to be collected and rates to be charged by each electric company from
8 its customers, including customers receiving electricity from other sources, such that the forecasted
9 collection by all electric companies in a calendar year is at least [\$20] **\$40** million.

10 “(b) **Reassess every two years the level of community need for low-income electric bill**
11 **payment and crisis assistance. Based on the commission’s findings and changes to electricity**
12 **rates during the prior two years, the commission may increase the amount to be collected**
13 **and the rates to be charged by each electric company from its customers. If the commission**
14 **decides to increase the amount to be collected by more than 2.5 percent, the commission**
15 **shall report within 30 days from the date of the commission’s decision to the Legislative**
16 **Assembly. The report must include information on the commission’s findings, the amount**
17 **of the increase and the amount to be collected. The report may include recommendations to**
18 **change the limit on the amount that may be charged per customer site under paragraph (d)**
19 **of this subsection.**

20 “[b)] (c) Adjust the rates if forecasted collections or actual collections are less than [\$20] **\$40**
21 million in any calendar year but shall not otherwise adjust the rates once set, **except as otherwise**
22 **provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection.**

23 “[c)] (d) Ensure that no customer pays more than [\$500] **\$1,000** per month per customer site for
24 low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

25 “(2) Funds collected by an electric company or Oregon Community Power under this section
26 must be:

27 “(a) Paid into the Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Pay-
28 ment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2);

29 “(b) Used by the Housing and Community Services Department solely for purposes related to
30 low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance and for the Housing and Community Services
31 Department’s cost of administering this section; and

32 “(c) Expended in the service area of the electric company or Oregon Community Power from
33 which the funds are collected.

34 “(3) The Housing and Community Services Department shall determine the manner in which
35 funds collected under this section are allocated by the department to energy assistance program

1 providers for the purpose of providing low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance. How-
2 ever, the department shall:

3 “(a) In consultation with electric companies, investigate and may implement alternative delivery
4 models to effectively reduce service disconnections and related costs to customers and electric
5 companies; and

6 “(b) Direct priority assistance to low-income customers who are in danger of having their elec-
7 tricity service disconnected.

8 “(4) The department shall maintain records and provide those records upon request to an elec-
9 tric company, Oregon Community Power and the Citizens’ Utility Board established under ORS
10 chapter 774 on a quarterly basis. Records maintained must include the numbers of low-income cus-
11 tomers served, the average amounts paid and the type of assistance provided. Electric companies
12 and Oregon Community Power shall, if requested, provide the department with aggregate data re-
13 lating to low-income customers served on a quarterly basis to support program development.

14 “(5) Interest on moneys deposited in the Housing and Community Services Department Low-
15 Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2) may be used to pro-
16 vide bill payment and crisis assistance to customers whose primary source of heat is not electricity.

17 “(6) Notwithstanding ORS 757.310, the commission may allow an electric company or Oregon
18 Community Power to provide reduced rates or other bill payment or crisis assistance or low-income
19 program assistance to a low-income household eligible for assistance under the federal Low Income
20 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended and in effect on July 23, 1999.”.

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