

Senate Bill 330

Sponsored by Senator GOLDEN; Representative GAMBIA (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as **introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Directs the PUC to adopt standards to require that power lines be placed underground. Provides for exceptions. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.8).

Directs the Public Utility Commission to adopt standards requiring the underground placement of electric power lines. Provides for exceptions.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the placement of utility lines.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 758.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) In addition to the standards adopted by the Public Utility Commission**
6 **under ORS 757.035, the commission shall adopt by rule standards for requiring the under-**
7 **ground placement of electric power lines.**

8 **(2) The standards adopted under this section must:**

9 **(a) Require the underground placement of an electric power line if a person is:**

10 **(A) Placing a new electric power line; or**

11 **(B) Replacing an overhead electric power line that is functionally obsolete, damaged or**
12 **destroyed; and**

13 **(b) Provide for criteria that the commission may use to determine whether to grant an**
14 **exception to the requirements under paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

15 **(3)(a) A person may apply to the commission for an exception to the standards adopted**
16 **under this section for a proposal to place or replace an electric power line.**

17 **(b) In determining whether to grant an exception, the commission shall take into con-**
18 **sideration the cost of placing an electric power line underground compared to the cost of**
19 **placing the electric power line overhead.**

20 **(c) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the commission may not grant**
21 **an exception for the sole reason that the cost of placing an electric power line underground**
22 **is greater than the cost of placing the electric power line overhead.**

23 **(d) An exception may be granted for all or part of a proposal to place or replace an**
24 **electric power line.**

25 **(4) The commission shall grant an exception under this section if:**

26 **(a) The incremental cost of placing an electric power line underground is _____**
27 **percent or greater than the incremental cost of placing the electric power line overhead; or**

28 **(b) A person is placing a new electric power line and the cost of acquiring an under-**
29 **ground right of way is _____ percent or greater than the cost of acquiring the over-**
30 **head right of way.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

