

Requested by Representative WALTERS

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
HOUSE BILL 3179**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after “utilities” delete the rest of the  
2 line and insert a period.

3 Delete lines 4 through 20 and pages 2 through 7 and insert:

4 **“SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 7 of this 2025 Act are added to and made**  
5 **a part of ORS chapter 757.**

6 **“SECTION 2. It is the policy of this state to:**

7 **“(1) Maintain affordable, safe and reliable energy services to all**  
8 **Oregonians;**

9 **“(2) Ensure that Oregonians pay only reasonable charges for energy**  
10 **services;**

11 **“(3) Mitigate the energy burden experienced by residential low-**  
12 **income customers;**

13 **“(4) Encourage joint system planning of the natural gas and electric**  
14 **systems to limit energy services costs across public utilities; and**

15 **“(5) Limit the frequency of general rate proceedings of natural gas**  
16 **and electric utilities in order to provide as much rate stability and**  
17 **predictability as practicable while ensuring the safe and reliable pro-**  
18 **vision of energy services.**

19 **“SECTION 3. (1) As used in this section:**

20 **“(a) ‘Electric utility’ means a public utility that provides electricity**  
21 **services to customers.**

1       **“(b) ‘Energy services’ means electricity or natural gas services.**

2       **“(c) ‘Natural gas utility’ means a public utility that provides na-**  
3 **tural gas services to customers.**

4       **“(2) A natural gas or electric utility that files for a general rate case**  
5 **with the Public Utility Commission shall include in the filing a pro-**  
6 **posal for a multiyear rate plan. A multiyear rate plan must cover no**  
7 **more than four years. The multiyear rate plan must include an anal-**  
8 **ysis of the natural gas or electric utility’s low-income assistance pro-**  
9 **grams and whether the programs are adequate to mitigate the energy**  
10 **burden of low-income residential customers. The analysis must take**  
11 **into consideration how any proposed rate increase may affect the**  
12 **programs and include the following considerations:**

13       **“(a) Residential customers’ average monthly utility bill for each**  
14 **year covered by the multiyear rate plan;**

15       **“(b) Residential customers’ average monthly utility bill for the**  
16 **winter months for each year covered by the multiyear rate plan;**

17       **“(c) The estimated dollar amount and percentage increase in resi-**  
18 **dential customers’ utility bills;**

19       **“(d) Data on residential service disconnection for nonpayment, in-**  
20 **cluding:**

21       **“(A) The number of residential customers disconnected for non-**  
22 **payment in the previous 12 months;**

23       **“(B) The number of residential customers receiving energy assist-**  
24 **ance, including any government assistance, utility bill discount or**  
25 **utility arrearage program, that were disconnected for nonpayment in**  
26 **the previous 12 months;**

27       **“(C) The number of residential customers who have a medical cer-**  
28 **tificate filed with the natural gas or electric utility; and**

29       **“(D) Data related to residential customers who are enrolled in the**  
30 **natural gas or electric utility’s energy assistance programs, including**

1 **disconnection moratorium programs;**

2 **“(e) Data on overdue balances, including:**

3 **“(A) The number of residential customers who have an overdue**  
4 **balance;**

5 **“(B) The average amount of the overdue balances; and**

6 **“(C) The total amount of overdue balances owed by residential**  
7 **customers; and**

8 **“(f) Any other relevant data, as determined by the commission,**  
9 **such as indicators of financial hardship, residential customer energy**  
10 **burden or affordability of utility bills.**

11 **“(3) If the natural gas or electric utility’s analysis shows that its**  
12 **existing low-income assistance programs are insufficient to mitigate**  
13 **its residential customers’ energy burden, the natural gas or electric**  
14 **utility shall propose additional assistance as part of the natural gas**  
15 **or electric utility’s multiyear rate plan.**

16 **“(4) The commission shall ensure that a natural gas or electric**  
17 **utility’s multiyear rate plan includes adequate assistance for low-**  
18 **income residential customers, taking into consideration the amount**  
19 **of any rate increases, the natural gas or electric utility’s analysis**  
20 **conducted under subsection (2) of this section and any other additional**  
21 **analysis or evidence in the record.**

22 **“(5) If the commission approves a multiyear rate plan, the com-**  
23 **mission shall separately approve rates for each year covered by the**  
24 **multiyear rate plan. For ratemaking purposes and as a basis for de-**  
25 **termining whether rates are fair, just and reasonable, the commission**  
26 **shall determine and use:**

27 **“(a) The fair value of the property of the natural gas or electric**  
28 **utility that the natural gas or electric utility plans to use to provide**  
29 **energy services for each year covered by the multiyear rate plan; and**

30 **“(b) The natural gas or electric utility’s revenues and operating**

1 expenses for each year covered by the multiyear rate plan.

2 “(6) The commission may order a natural gas or electric utility to  
3 refund customers if the commission finds that property of the natural  
4 gas or electric utility that the natural gas or electric utility planned  
5 to use to provide energy services during a year covered by the natural  
6 gas or electric utility’s multiyear rate plan was not used to provide  
7 energy services during that year.

8 “(7) The commission may by order establish terms, conditions and  
9 procedures for a multiyear rate plan to ensure rates remain fair, just  
10 and reasonable during the course of the multiyear rate plan. A natural  
11 gas or electric utility is bound by the terms and conditions of the na-  
12 tural gas or electric utility’s multiyear rate plan, as approved by the  
13 commission, as to the first and second years covered by the natural  
14 gas or electric utility’s multiyear rate plan, but may file a new  
15 multiyear rate plan that covers and provides for a new plan for the  
16 third and fourth years of the natural gas or electric utility’s multiyear  
17 rate plan.

18 **“SECTION 4.** (1) The Public Utility Commission shall conduct an  
19 investigation into joint system planning for natural gas and electric  
20 systems. In conducting the investigation, the commission shall focus  
21 on how natural gas and electric systems can better complement each  
22 other to lower overall energy system costs and maintain reliable en-  
23 ergy services while helping the state achieve the state’s greenhouse  
24 gas emissions reduction goals set forth in ORS 468A.205.

25 “(2) The commission shall submit a report on its investigation in  
26 the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommen-  
27 dations for legislation, to the committees or interim committees of the  
28 Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than July 1, 2027.

29 **“SECTION 5.** Section 4 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2,  
30 2028.

1       **“SECTION 6. (1) The Public Utility Commission shall ensure that**  
2 **each public utility that provides natural gas or electricity services in**  
3 **this state does not use moneys from customers to subsidize activities**  
4 **that are not regulated by the commission.**

5       **“(2) A public utility that provides natural gas or electricity services**  
6 **in this state may not recover from rate payers the costs or expenses**  
7 **incurred by the public utility that are or are associated with:**

8       **“(a) Influencing public opinion with respect to:**

9       **“(A) The election, recall, appointment or removal of a public offi-**  
10 **cial;**

11       **“(B) Approval, rejection, modification or repeal of an initiative,**  
12 **referenda, legislation or ordinance;**

13       **“(C) Approval, modification or revocation of a utility franchise**  
14 **agreement; or**

15       **“(D) Influencing the decisions of public officials;**

16       **“(b) Charitable giving, including contributions to an organization**  
17 **that is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) or (4)**  
18 **of the Internal Revenue Code, except moneys donated by the public**  
19 **utility to help customers afford energy services;**

20       **“(c) An aircraft owned, leased or chartered for a member of the**  
21 **board of directors or an officer of the public utility;**

22       **“(d) Advertising that the commission determines is for the primary**  
23 **purpose of corporate imaging or is not related to the provision of na-**  
24 **tural gas or electricity services; or**

25       **“(e) Contributions to a political candidate, political party, campaign**  
26 **committee, issue committee or independent expenditure committee.**

27       **“(3) A public utility that provides natural gas or electricity services**  
28 **in this state may recover from rate payers prudently incurred expenses**  
29 **that are directly related to appearances before a regulatory or gov-**  
30 **ernmental body in connection with existing or proposed operations of**

1 the public utility.

2 **“SECTION 7. No later than November 15 of each calendar year, a**  
3 **public utility that provides natural gas or electricity services in this**  
4 **state shall provide to the Public Utility Commission, and make pub-**  
5 **licly available on the public utility’s website, a visual representation**  
6 **that shows what percentage of each dollar that is paid by residential**  
7 **customers is used for the following cost categories:**

8 **“(1) Capital investments, including distribution, transmission, me-**  
9 **tering, information technology and facilities;**

10 **“(2) Commodity costs, including natural gas;**

11 **“(3) Energy efficiency programs;**

12 **“(4) Cost of capital;**

13 **“(5) Insurance, including self-insurance;**

14 **“(6) Taxes and franchise fees;**

15 **“(7) Energy assistance programs;**

16 **“(8) Environmental compliance costs, including greenhouse gas re-**  
17 **duction requirements;**

18 **“(9) Catastrophic events and emergencies; and**

19 **“(10) Any other cost category that a public utility chooses to in-**  
20 **clude or is required by the Public Utility Commission.”.**

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