

HB 3792-4
(LC 3599)
4/1/25 (CPA/ps)

Requested by Representative ANDERSEN

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 3792**

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

3 Delete lines 4 through 8 and insert:

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

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

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

13 **“(b) Reassess every two years the level of community need for low-**
14 **income electric bill payment and crisis assistance. Based on the**
15 **commission’s findings and changes to electricity rates during the prior**
16 **two years, the commission may increase the amount to be collected**
17 **and the rates to be charged by each electric company from its cus-**
18 **tomers. If the commission decides to increase the amount to be col-**
19 **lected by more than 2.5 percent, the commission shall report within**
20 **30 days from the date of the commission’s decision to the Legislative**
21 **Assembly. The report must include information on the commission’s**

1 **findings, the amount of the increase and the amount to be collected.**
2 **The report may include recommendations to change the limit on the**
3 **amount that may be charged per customer site under paragraph (d)**
4 **of this subsection.**

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

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

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

13 “(a) Paid into the Housing and Community Services Department Low-
14 Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587
15 (2);

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

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

22 “(3) The Housing and Community Services Department shall determine
23 the manner in which funds collected under this section are allocated by the
24 department to energy assistance program providers for the purpose of pro-
25 viding low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance. However, the
26 department shall:

27 “(a) In consultation with electric companies, investigate and may imple-
28 ment alternative delivery models to effectively reduce service disconnections
29 and related costs to customers and electric companies; and

30 “(b) Direct priority assistance to low-income customers who are in danger

1 of having their electricity service disconnected.

2 “(4) The department shall maintain records and provide those records
3 upon request to an electric company, Oregon Community Power and the
4 Citizens’ Utility Board established under ORS chapter 774 on a quarterly
5 basis. Records maintained must include the numbers of low-income customers
6 served, the average amounts paid and the type of assistance provided. Elec-
7 tric companies and Oregon Community Power shall, if requested, provide the
8 department with aggregate data relating to low-income customers served on
9 a quarterly basis to support program development.

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

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

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