

HB 3597-1  
(LC 3401)  
4/4/25 (STN/ps)

Requested by Representative ANDERSEN

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
HOUSE BILL 3597**

1 In line 2 of the printed bill, before the period insert “; creating new pro-  
2 visions; amending ORS 468.444, 468.446 and 468.449; and declaring an emer-  
3 gency”.

4 After line 2, insert:

5 “Whereas it is the opinion of the Legislative Assembly that, during cal-  
6 endar year 2026, a charge ahead rebate of \$3,000 for the purchase or lease  
7 of a new light-duty zero-emission vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle  
8 and a charge ahead rebate of \$1,000 for the purchase or lease of a used  
9 light-duty zero-emission vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle would fa-  
10 cilitate an equitable transition to the use of light-duty zero-emission vehicles  
11 or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in this state; now, therefore,”.

12 Delete lines 4 through 8 and insert:

13 **“SECTION 1.** ORS 468.444 is amended to read:

14 “468.444. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality shall establish a  
15 program for providing rebates to persons that purchase or lease qualifying  
16 vehicles for use in this state. The Director of the Department of Environ-  
17 mental Quality may hire or contract with a third-party organization to im-  
18 plement and serve as the administrator of the program required by this  
19 section.

20 “(2) The department may:

21 “(a) Specify design features for the program; and

1 “(b) Establish procedures to:

2 “(A) Prioritize available moneys for specific qualifying vehicles; and

3 “(B) Limit the number of rebates available for each type of qualifying  
4 vehicle.

5 “(3) The purchaser or lessee of a qualifying vehicle may apply for a rebate  
6 for a portion of the purchase price or may choose to assign the rebate to a  
7 vehicle dealer or lessor.

8 “(4) Rebates under the program shall be made from moneys credited to  
9 or deposited in the Zero-Emission Incentive Fund established under ORS  
10 468.449. A rebate may not be made until there are sufficient moneys available  
11 in the fund to make the rebate.

12 “(5) The department shall prescribe the rebate application procedure for  
13 purchasers and lessees. All rebate applications must include a declaration  
14 under penalty of perjury in the form required by ORCP 1 E.

15 “(6)(a) Rebates for qualifying vehicles shall be set annually by the de-  
16 partment as follows:

17 “[a)] (A) For light-duty zero-emission vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric  
18 vehicles with an electrochemical energy storage capacity of 10 kilowatt  
19 hours or more, up to \$2,500 [*but no less than \$1,500*].

20 “[b)] (B) For light-duty zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrid electric  
21 vehicles with an electrochemical energy storage capacity of less than 10  
22 kilowatt hours, up to \$1,500 [*but no less than \$750*].

23 “[c)] (C) For neighborhood electric vehicles, up to \$750 [*but not less than*  
24 *\$375*].

25 “[d)] (D) For zero-emission motorcycles, up to \$750 [*but not less than*  
26 *\$375*].

27 **“(b) The department may reduce the amount of any rebate listed in**  
28 **this subsection, including to \$0, if the department determines that,**  
29 **based on the demand for rebates and the moneys available to provide**  
30 **rebates under the programs established under this section and ORS**

1 **468.446, reducing the rebate will facilitate an equitable transition to**  
2 **the use of qualifying vehicles in this state.**

3 **“(c) The department shall, for each calendar quarter, estimate the**  
4 **number of rebates available for each rebate described in paragraph**  
5 **(a)(A) to (a)(D) of this subsection and make the estimate publicly**  
6 **available.**

7 **“(7) To be eligible for a rebate, a person requesting a rebate under the**  
8 **program shall:**

9 **“(a) Purchase or lease a qualifying vehicle. A lease must have a minimum**  
10 **term of 24 months.**

11 **“(b) Provide proof of an intent to use the qualifying vehicle primarily on**  
12 **the public highways of this state, which may be satisfied by providing proof**  
13 **of registration of the qualifying vehicle in Oregon.**

14 **“(c) Submit an application for a rebate to the administrator of the pro-**  
15 **gram within six months after the date of purchase of the qualifying vehicle**  
16 **or six months after the date the lease of the qualifying vehicle begins.**

17 **“(d) Retain registration of the qualifying vehicle for a minimum of 24**  
18 **consecutive months after the date of purchase or the date the lease begins.**

19 **“(8) A rebate recipient may not make or allow any modifications to the**  
20 **qualifying vehicle’s emissions control systems, hardware, software cali-**  
21 **brations or hybrid system.**

22 **“(9)(a) If a rebate recipient sells the qualifying vehicle or terminates the**  
23 **qualifying vehicle lease before the end of 24 months, the rebate recipient**  
24 **shall:**

25 **“(A) Notify the administrator of the program of the sale or termination;**  
26 **and**

27 **“(B) Reimburse the administrator for the rebate in a prorated amount**  
28 **based on the number of months that the rebate recipient owned or leased the**  
29 **qualifying vehicle.**

30 **“(b) The administrator may waive the reimbursement requirement under**

1 paragraph (a) of this subsection if the administrator determines that a  
2 waiver is appropriate given unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances that  
3 gave rise to a need for the rebate recipient to sell the qualifying vehicle or  
4 terminate the qualifying vehicle lease before the end of 24 months.

5 “(10) Rebate recipients may be requested to participate in ongoing re-  
6 search efforts.

7 “(11) The administrator of the program shall work to ensure timely pay-  
8 ment of rebates with a goal of paying rebates within 60 days after receiving  
9 an application for a rebate.

10 “(12) A vehicle dealer may advertise the program on the premises owned  
11 or operated by the vehicle dealer. If no moneys are available from the pro-  
12 gram or the program otherwise changes, a vehicle dealer who advertises the  
13 program may not be held liable for advertising false or misleading informa-  
14 tion.

15 “(13) The Environmental Quality Commission may adopt any rules neces-  
16 sary to carry out the provisions of this section.

17 **“SECTION 2.** ORS 468.446, as amended by section 9, chapter 82, Oregon  
18 Laws 2024, is amended to read:

19 “468.446. (1) As used in this section:

20 “(a) ‘Charge ahead rebate’ means a rebate for the purchase or lease of a  
21 new or used light-duty zero-emission vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle  
22 issued through the Charge Ahead Oregon Program established under this  
23 section.

24 “(b) ‘Low-income service provider’ means an organization that provides  
25 health, dental, social, financial, energy conservation or other assistive ser-  
26 vices to low or moderate income individuals or low or moderate income  
27 households, as further defined by the Environmental Quality Commission by  
28 rule.

29 **“(c) ‘Nonprofit organization’ means an organization, or a group of**  
30 **organizations, described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue**

1 Code that is exempt from income tax under section 501(a) of the  
2 Internal Revenue Code and that the Secretary of State has issued a  
3 certificate of existence or a certificate of authorization under ORS  
4 65.027.

5 “(d) ‘Qualifying entity’ means:

6 “(A) A low-income service provider;

7 “(B) A nonprofit organization;

8 “(C) A local government, as defined in ORS 174.116; or

9 “(D) A veteran-owned business, as defined in ORS 200.005.

10 “[c)] (e) ‘Qualifying household’ means a household with income that does  
11 not exceed 400 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

12 “(2) The Department of Environmental Quality shall establish a Charge  
13 Ahead Oregon Program for providing charge ahead rebates to qualifying  
14 households and [*low-income service providers*] **qualifying entities**. The Di-  
15 rector of the Department of Environmental Quality may hire or contract  
16 with a third-party organization to implement and serve as the administrator  
17 of the program required by this section.

18 “(3) The department may:

19 “(a) Specify design features for the program; and

20 “(b) Establish procedures to:

21 “(A) Prioritize available moneys to specific income levels or geographic  
22 areas; and

23 “(B) Limit the number of charge ahead rebates available.

24 “(4) An eligible purchaser or lessee of a new or used light-duty zero-  
25 emission vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle may apply for a charge  
26 ahead rebate for a portion of the purchase price or may choose to assign the  
27 charge ahead rebate to a vehicle dealer or lessor.

28 “(5) Rebates under the Charge Ahead Oregon Program shall be made from  
29 moneys credited to or deposited in the Zero-Emission Incentive Fund estab-  
30 lished under ORS 468.449 or the Charge Ahead Zero-Emission Incentive Fund

1 established under section 13, chapter 82, Oregon Laws 2024. A rebate may  
2 not be made unless there are sufficient moneys available to make the rebate.

3 “(6) The department shall prescribe the rebate application procedure for  
4 eligible purchasers and lessees. All rebate applications must include a dec-  
5 laration under penalty of perjury in the form required by ORCP 1 E.

6 “(7)(a) Charge ahead rebates shall be:

7 “[a)] (A) Up to \$7,500 for the purchase or lease of a new light-duty  
8 zero-emission vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, but not less than  
9 \$2,500; or

10 “[b)] (B) Up to \$5,000 for the purchase or lease of a used light-duty  
11 zero-emission vehicle or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, but not less than  
12 [\$2,500] **\$1,000.**

13 **“(b) The department shall set rebates listed in this subsection at**  
14 **an amount that the department determines will facilitate an equitable**  
15 **transition to the use of light-duty zero-emission vehicles or plug-in**  
16 **hybrid electric vehicles in this state.**

17 **“(c) The department shall, for each calendar quarter, estimate the**  
18 **number of rebates available for each rebate described in paragraph**  
19 **(a)(A) and (a)(B) of this subsection and make the estimate publicly**  
20 **available.**

21 **“(8) To be eligible for a charge ahead rebate, a person requesting a rebate**  
22 **under the program must:**

23 **“(a) Be a member of a qualifying household or be a [low-income service**  
24 **provider] qualifying entity.**

25 **“(b) Purchase or lease a new or used light-duty zero-emission vehicle or**  
26 **plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. A lease must have a minimum term of 24**  
27 **months.**

28 **“(c) Provide proof of an intent to use the light-duty zero-emission vehicle**  
29 **or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle primarily on the public highways of this**  
30 **state, which may be satisfied by providing proof of registration of the vehicle**

1 in Oregon.

2 “(d) Submit an application for a charge ahead rebate to the administrator  
3 of the program within six months of the date of purchase or six months from  
4 the date the lease begins.

5 “(e) Retain registration of the light-duty zero-emission vehicle for a min-  
6 imum of 24 consecutive months following the date of purchase or following  
7 the date the lease begins.

8 “(9) A person that receives a charge ahead rebate may not make or allow  
9 any modifications to the vehicle’s emissions control systems, hardware, soft-  
10 ware calibrations or hybrid system.

11 “(10)(a) If a charge ahead rebate recipient sells the vehicle or terminates  
12 the vehicle lease before the end of 24 months, the charge ahead rebate re-  
13 cipient shall:

14 “(A) Notify the administrator of the program of the sale or termination;  
15 and

16 “(B) Reimburse the administrator for the rebate in a prorated amount  
17 based on the number of months that the rebate recipient owned or leased the  
18 qualifying vehicle.

19 “(b) The administrator may waive the reimbursement requirement under  
20 paragraph (a) of this subsection if the administrator determines that a  
21 waiver is appropriate given unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances that  
22 gave rise to a need for the rebate recipient to sell the qualifying vehicle or  
23 terminate the qualifying vehicle lease before the end of 24 months.

24 “(11) Charge ahead rebate recipients may be requested to participate in  
25 ongoing research efforts.

26 “(12) The administrator of the program shall work to ensure timely pay-  
27 ment of charge ahead rebates with a goal of paying rebates within 60 days  
28 of receiving an application for a charge ahead rebate.

29 “(13) In establishing the Charge Ahead Oregon Program, the department  
30 shall provide opportunities for public comment by qualifying households[

1 *low-income service providers and other community-based organizations]* **and**  
2 **qualifying entities** that are located in areas of this state that have elevated  
3 concentrations of air contaminants attributable to motor vehicle emissions,  
4 relative to other areas of the state. The department shall use the comments  
5 received pursuant to this subsection to inform, evaluate and strengthen the  
6 design of the program in order to increase the usage of light-duty zero-  
7 emission vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

8 “(14) The administrator of the program shall, throughout the course of  
9 implementing the program, conduct community outreach to qualifying  
10 households[, *low-income service providers and other community-based organ-*  
11 *izations]* **qualifying entities** that are located in areas of this state that have  
12 elevated concentrations of air contaminants attributable to motor vehicle  
13 emissions, relative to other areas of the state, in order to:

14 “(a) Solicit feedback on program implementation; and

15 “(b) Take steps to ensure that the program is promoted effectively.

16 “(15) A vehicle dealer may advertise the Charge Ahead Oregon Program  
17 on the premises owned or operated by the vehicle dealer. If no moneys are  
18 available from the program or the program otherwise changes, a vehicle  
19 dealer who advertises the program may not be held liable for advertising  
20 false or misleading information.

21 “(16) A charge ahead rebate may not be combined with a rebate described  
22 in ORS 468.444.

23 “(17) **A qualifying entity is not eligible to receive more than 10**  
24 **charge ahead rebates in a calendar year.**

25 “[~~(17)~~] (18) An organization that the department has hired or contracted  
26 with to implement and serve as the administrator of the program may offer  
27 expanded financing mechanisms for program participants, including, but not  
28 limited to, a loan or loan-loss reserve credit enhancement program to in-  
29 crease consumer access to new or used light-duty zero-emission vehicles and  
30 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

1        “[18] (19) The Environmental Quality Commission may adopt any rules  
2 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

3        **“SECTION 3.** ORS 468.449, as amended by section 11, chapter 82, Oregon  
4 Laws 2024, is amended to read:

5        “468.449. (1) The Zero-Emission Incentive Fund is established in the State  
6 Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by  
7 the Zero-Emission Incentive Fund shall be credited to the fund.

8        “(2) Moneys in the Zero-Emission Incentive Fund shall consist of:

9        “(a) Amounts donated to the fund;

10       “(b) Amounts transferred to the fund by the Department of Revenue under  
11 ORS 320.435;

12       “(c) Amounts appropriated or otherwise transferred to the fund by the  
13 Legislative Assembly;

14       “(d) Other amounts deposited in the fund from any public or private  
15 source; and

16       “(e) Interest earned by the fund.

17       “(3) The Department of Environmental Quality shall encourage gifts,  
18 grants, donations or other contributions to the fund.

19       “(4) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department  
20 to be used to carry out the provisions of ORS 468.442 to 468.449.

21       “(5)(a) No more than 10 percent of the moneys deposited in the fund per  
22 biennium may be expended to pay administrative expenses incurred in the  
23 administration of ORS 468.442 to 468.449 by:

24       “(A) The department; and

25       “(B) Any third-party organization that the department hires or contracts  
26 with under ORS 468.444 and 468.446.

27       “(b) As used in this subsection, ‘administrative expenses’ does not include  
28 expenses incurred by the department or third-party organizations in:

29       “(A) Conducting community outreach under ORS 468.446 (14); or

30       “(B) Otherwise engaging in efforts to promote transportation

1 electrification through participation in the programs established under ORS  
2 468.444 and 468.446.

3 “(6)(a) The Environmental Quality Commission may adopt by rule pro-  
4 visions for the allocation of moneys deposited in the fund between the pro-  
5 grams established under ORS 468.444 and 468.446.

6 “(b) Rules adopted under this subsection must require that at least 20  
7 percent of the moneys deposited in the fund per biennium are allocated to  
8 fund the provision of rebates through the Charge Ahead Oregon Program  
9 established under ORS 468.446.

10 “(c) The amount required to be allocated under paragraph (b) of this  
11 subsection in any biennium shall be reduced, but not below zero, by the  
12 amount deposited from any other source in the Charge Ahead Zero-Emission  
13 Incentive Fund established under section 13, chapter 82, Oregon Laws 2024.

14 **“(7) In addition to the allocation of moneys under subsection (6) of**  
15 **this section, the commission shall allocate at least \$500,000 each**  
16 **biennium to be expended by the department on outreach and education**  
17 **about the rebates available under the programs established under ORS**  
18 **468.444 and 468.446. The department shall suspend education and out-**  
19 **reach activities under this subsection during any period when the**  
20 **balance of the Zero-Emission Incentive Fund is less than \$1 million.**  
21 **The department may use the amount saved from suspending outreach**  
22 **and education activities to provide rebates under the programs estab-**  
23 **lished under ORS 468.444 or 468.446.**

24 **“SECTION 4. Notwithstanding the amendments to ORS 468.446 by**  
25 **section 2 of this 2025 Act, a qualifying entity, as defined in ORS 468.446,**  
26 **other than a low-income service provider, as defined in ORS 468.446,**  
27 **is not eligible to receive a charge ahead rebate before January 1, 2026.**

28 **“SECTION 5. (1) The amendments to ORS 468.449 by section 3 of this**  
29 **2025 Act become operative on January 1, 2026.**

30 **“(2) The Department of Environmental Quality and the Environ-**

1    **mental Quality Commission may take any action before the operative**  
2    **date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to en-**  
3    **able the department or the commission to exercise, on and after the**  
4    **operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the du-**  
5    **ties, functions and powers conferred on the department and the com-**  
6    **mission by the amendments to ORS 468.449 by section 3 of this 2025**  
7    **Act.**

8        **“SECTION 6. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate**  
9    **preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is**  
10   **declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.”.**

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