SB 926-3 (LC 1362) 4/7/25 (CPA/ps)

Requested by Senator PROZANSKI

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 926

1 Delete lines 4 through 17 of the printed bill and insert:

<sup>2</sup> "SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act are added to and <sup>3</sup> made a part of ORS chapter 757.

4 **"SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:** 

"(a) 'Electric company' means an electric company, as defined in
ORS 757.600, that services electricity to more than 25,000 retail electricity consumers located in this state.

8 "(b) 'Retail electricity consumer' has the meaning given that term
9 in ORS 757.600.

10 "(2) If a court or jury finds that a wildfire resulted from the 11 negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of an electric com-12 pany, the electric company may not recover from retail electricity 13 consumers the following costs and expenses:

"(a) Costs and expenses that are, or are associated with, a civil judgment, civil fine or penalty or criminal fine or penalty that results from or is based on the finding that the wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company.

"(b) Costs and expenses that are, or are associated with, a settle ment that is based on:

21 "(A) The underlying allegations that there are losses, expenses or

damages caused by the wildfire that resulted from the negligence or
 a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company; or

"(B) The finding that the wildfire resulted from the negligence or
a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company.

5 "(c) Litigation costs and expenses of, or associated with, the civil 6 or criminal action in which the court or jury finds that the wildfire 7 resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part 8 of the electric company.

9 "(d) Costs and expenses of, or associated with, repairing or replac-10 ing the electric company's real or personal property that was damaged 11 or destroyed in the wildfire that the court or jury finds resulted from 12 the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric 13 company.

"<u>SECTION 3.</u> (1) As used in this section, 'electric company' means
 an electric company, as defined in ORS 757.600, that services electricity
 to more than 25,000 retail electricity consumers, as defined in ORS
 757,600, located in this state.

"(2) If an electric company owes any debt on an outstanding judgment that is based on a finding by a court or jury that a wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company, the electric company may not:

"(a) Pay or distribute dividends, income, interest or profits of the electric company, or affiliate or subsidiary of the electric company, to any person or individual with an ownership or beneficial interest in the electric company; or

"(b) Pay, distribute or repurchase stock or other ownership interest
in the electric company, or affiliate or subsidiary of the electric company, to any person or individual with an ownership or beneficial interest in the electric company.

30 "SECTION 4. In a civil action arising out of allegations that the

conduct of an electric company, as defined in section 3 of this 2025 Act,
caused or substantially contributed to a wildfire, if the plaintiff establishes that the wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher
degree of fault on the part of the electric company:

5 "(1) The rate of interest on the judgment shall be nine percent per
6 annum and accrue from the date the wildfire was ignited; and

7 "(2) Damages awarded to the plaintiff may not be offset by any
8 money received from any other source by the plaintiff.

9 "<u>SECTION 5.</u> Sections 2 to 4 of this 2025 Act apply to wildfires that
 10 are ignited on or after January 1, 2020.

"<u>SECTION 6.</u> (1) As used in this section, 'electric company' means
 an electric company, as defined in ORS 757.600, that services electricity
 to more than 25,000 retail electricity consumers, as defined in ORS
 757,600, located in this state.

"(2) If an electric company owes any debt on an outstanding judgment that is based on a finding by a court or jury that a wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company and the electric company has not satisfied the judgment by January 1, 2026, the electric company shall be liable for all taxes that may be owed by the prevailing party on the judgment at the time the electric company satisfies the judgment.

<sup>22</sup> "<u>SECTION 7.</u> Section 6 of this 2025 Act applies to a judgment that <sup>23</sup> has been issued between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2025.".

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