

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Deckert, George L., Starr, Metsger
Nays: 0
Exc.: Monnes Anderson
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Updates the definition of telecommunications service in statute related to regulation of telecommunications utilities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background on the Task Force on Telecommunications Law Revision
- Intention not to change authority of Public Utility Commission

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 17 (2005) created the Task Force on Telecommunications Law Revision to review ORS Chapter 759 and other laws relating to telecommunications. The measure directed the task force to revise statutory provisions to reflect changing technology, to correct inconsistent terminology, and to make Oregon laws consistent with federal requirements. The task force recommended changes to the definitions section, which are incorporated into Senate Bill 982. The changes are intended to update the language without changing the authority of the Public Utility Commission.

The definition of telecommunications service in ORS 759.005 currently refers only to “two-way switched access and transport of voice communications.” This definition is outdated and narrow and does not specify that to be considered a service it must be offered for a fee. The new definition of telecommunications and the revised definition of telecommunications service in Senate Bill 982 are consistent with federal definitions.