

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact  
**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed  
**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0  
**Yeas:** George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger  
**Nays:** -  
**Exc.:** -  
**Prepared By:** Jim Stembridge, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 3/11, 5/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Extends Public Utility Commission's telephone Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) sunset to January 1, 2020. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Details of assistance programs funded by the RSPF
- Telephone tax supporting the program
- Medicaid recipients
- Levels of speech and hearing impairment
- Source of revenue to pay for expanded services

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Eliminates expanded RSPF program eligibility provisions.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 1987, Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) programs have supported the state's public policy that adequate and affordable residential telephone service be available to all Oregonians. RSPF, funded by a \$0.09 tax applied to the monthly bill of land-line or cell phone subscribers, supports three telephone assistance programs: the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP), the Telecommunications Devices Access Program (TDAP), and the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service (OTRS). Under OTAP, qualifying low-income Oregonians may receive up to a \$13.50 reduction in their monthly bill for local residential telephone service. The TDAP program loans specialized telephone equipment to eligible Oregonians who have hearing, vision, speech, mobility, or cognitive impairments.

The fund and programs, authorized in 1987 Oregon Laws, have not been placed in statute as the law is considered temporary due to its repeal (sunset) date. Since 1987, however, the RSPF and programs have had four sunset extensions. HB 2252-A extends the sunset again, from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2020.