

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass

**Vote:** 10 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Barton, Cameron, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Witt, Schaufler

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 5/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires public bodies to coordinate with utilities in the planning of highway projects to minimize costs. Excludes property owned by the Port of Portland. Allows utilities to seek and receive reimbursement from private parties or customers. Allows a telecommunications utility not subject to rate-of-return regulation to request authorization from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to recover relocation costs from customers. Prescribes procedures for the PUC in determining the level of authorized cost recovery.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of the measure

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** City, county, state, and interstate road improvement projects often require the identification and relocation of utilities. Coordination of these utility relocations among public agencies, utility owners and construction contractors has been a growing concern. Lack of effective coordination may result in incomplete construction plans, construction delays, and additional costs.

SB 269-A addresses these issues by clarifying that a public body must coordinate with utilities when planning highway projects for the purpose of minimizing costs, limiting disruption of utility services related to highway projects, and reducing the potential need for relocating utility facilities. The measure also allows certain types of utilities to request the authorization to recover relocation costs from customers, and outlines items for the Public Utilities Commission to consider in determining the level of authorized cost recovery. Items include verification of relocation costs; determination of the allocation of costs between interstate and intrastate services and geographic areas, customers, and services; the overall impact on the utility; and other relevant factors identified by the commission.