

76TH OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY  
SENATE FINANCE AND REVENUE COMMITTEE

MEASURE: SB 863-A  
CARRIER:

REVENUE: Statement issued  
FISCAL: Statement issued

*Preliminary*

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Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Mazen Malik, Economist

Meeting Dates: May-09, May-16

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**WHAT THE BILL DOES:** Requires electric company or Oregon Community Power, at request of Public Utility Commission, to collect an additional \$5 million dollars per 12-month period from residential consumers for low-income electric bill payment assistance if negative economic indicators meet certain triggers

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The impact of the recession on low income families. The ability to pay.
- The conditional triggers and their likelihood of the conditions being met.
- Modest increase in rates but insures the system functioning.
- Legislation of doing charity. something good to be done but not exactly by choice.

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

**BACKGROUND:**

The measure contains a number of provisions related to the funding and administration of the Oregon Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Section 3 of the bill requires the PUC to collect an additional \$5 million per year for no more than two years between the passage of the bill and January 1, 2014 for the low-income bill payment assistance program if at least two of four economic conditions are met. The conditions/triggers required are: unemployment rate exceeded 10%, Oregon poverty rate exceeded 12%, federal allocation of low-income energy assistance is 75 percent or less than previous year's allocation. number of households in Oregon receiving supplemental nutrition assistance has exceeded 20%. It is likely that at least two of these conditions will be met for at least two years in the given time period.

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