

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****Measure: SB 144**Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal OfficePrepared by: Matt Stayner  
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Date: 2/10/2011**Measure Description:**

Changes eligibility of person to receive adaptive equipment or assistive telecommunication device from requirement that person be severely hard of hearing or severely speech impaired to requirement that person be hard of hearing or speech impaired.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Public Utility Commission (PUC)

**Summary of Expenditure Impact**

	2011-13 Biennium	2013-15 Biennium
Other Funds	178,187	178,187
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$178,187</b>	<b>\$178,187</b>
Positions	0	0
FTE	0.00	0.00

**Local Government Mandate:**

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**Analysis:**

The TDAP loans equipment to eligible Oregonians, as defined in statute, at no cost without restriction on income that require the use of adaptive equipment to use the telephone. The program is supported by the Residential Service Protection Fund which receives a \$0.12 surcharge assessed against each paying retail subscriber who has telephone or cellular service with access to the telecommunications relay service.

The proposed legislation performs three functions:

- Allows nurse practitioners and rehabilitation instructors for the blind, within the scope of their practice, to certify a disabled Oregonian as needing adaptive telephone equipment from the Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP)
- Changes eligibility of person, as determined by the appropriate professional, to receive adaptive equipment or assistive telecommunication device through the TDAP from requirement that person be severely hard of hearing or severely speech impaired to requirement that person be hard of hearing or speech impaired
- Revises existing statute to specify that hearing aid specialists can only certify that an eligible Oregonian is deaf or hard of hearing

The expanded expenditures are included in the Public Utility Commission's requested budget under Policy Option Package (POP) 103. The Agency estimates that the proposed legislation would result in an additional 2,650 individuals being eligible and applying for services during the upcoming biennium resulting in \$178,187 in additional expenditures. No additional FTE would be required, additional workload would be absorbed using current staff.