

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Richard Berger, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/5, 4/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE 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, and if federal allocation of low-income energy assistance is 75 percent or less than previous year's allocation. Dictates that additional collections are approved for no more than 12 months from date of Public Utility Commission authorization without additional findings, but not less than nine months after initial finding, up to a maximum of 24 months. Requires the Citizens' Utility Board, electric companies, or Oregon Community Power whose ratepayers contribute to the Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund to provide membership on the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department advisory committee. Authorizes Department to investigate and implement alternative delivery models specified by the advisory committee, in consultation with electric companies to reduce service disconnections and related costs to retail consumers and electric utilities. Requires Department to maintain records and report quarterly on Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Program to any electric company, Oregon Community Power, and Citizens' Utility Board. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Reduction in funding from the federal government during period of increased demand
- Agreement from utility companies
- System efficiency in not removing customers from the power grid

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is intended to provide low income Oregonians assistance with their home energy expenses. Households wishing to receive assistance from the program must be at or below 60 percent of state median income level.