

# Senate Bill 145

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## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes Public Utility Commission and Department of Revenue to exchange information ensuring compliance with Residential Service Protection Fund and tax for emergency services requirements. Changes definition of "telecommunications relay service" to match federal definition.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to telecommunications; amending sections 7, 9 and 11, chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 7, chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, as amended by section 2, chapter 622,  
5 Oregon Laws 1991, section 8, chapter 872, Oregon Laws 1991, section 1, chapter 231, Oregon Laws  
6 1993, section 387, chapter 79, Oregon Laws 1995, section 1, chapter 451, Oregon Laws 1995, and  
7 section 2, chapter 408, Oregon Laws 2001, is amended to read:

8 **Sec. 7.** (1) In order to fund the programs provided in sections 2 to 6 and 9 to 14, chapter 290,  
9 Oregon Laws 1987, the Public Utility Commission shall develop and implement a system for assess-  
10 ing a surcharge in an amount not to exceed 35 cents per month against each paying retail subscriber  
11 who has telecommunications service with access to the telecommunications relay service. The sur-  
12 charge shall be applied on a telecommunications circuit designated for a particular subscriber. One  
13 subscriber line shall be counted for each circuit that is capable of generating usage on the line side  
14 of the switched network regardless of the quantity of customer premises equipment connected to  
15 each circuit. For providers of central office based services, the surcharge shall be applied to each  
16 line that has unrestricted connection to the telecommunications relay service. These central office  
17 based service lines that have restricted access to the telecommunications relay service shall be  
18 charged based on software design. For cellular, wireless or other radio common carriers, the sur-  
19 charge shall be applied on a per instrument basis, but applies only to subscribers whose place of  
20 primary use, as defined and determined under 4 U.S.C. 116 to 126, is within this state.

21 (2) The surcharge imposed by subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

22 (a) Services upon which the state is prohibited from imposing the surcharge by the Constitution  
23 or laws of the United States or the Constitution or laws of the State of Oregon.

24 (b) Interconnection between telecommunications utilities, telecommunications cooperatives,  
25 competitive telecommunications services providers certified pursuant to ORS 759.020, radio common  
26 carriers and interexchange carriers.

27 (3) The commission annually shall review the surcharge and the balance in the Residential  
28 Service Protection Fund and may make adjustments to the amount of the surcharge to ensure that  
29 the fund has adequate resources but that the fund balance does not exceed six months of projected  
30 expenses.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (4) Moneys collected pursuant to the surcharge shall not be considered in any proceeding to  
2 establish rates for telecommunication service.

3 (5) The commission shall direct telecommunications public utilities to identify separately in bills  
4 to customers for service the surcharge imposed pursuant to this section.

5 **(6) Notwithstanding ORS 314.835 and 314.840, the Department of Revenue may disclose**  
6 **information received under ORS 403.200 to 403.230 to the Public Utility Commission to carry**  
7 **out the provisions of chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987.**

8 **(7) The Public Utility Commission may disclose information obtained pursuant to chapter**  
9 **290, Oregon Laws 1987, to the Department of Revenue to administer the tax imposed under**  
10 **ORS 403.200 to 403.230.**

11 **SECTION 2.** Section 9, chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, as amended by section 2, chapter 872,  
12 Oregon Laws 1991, section 32, chapter 280, Oregon Laws 1995, section 2, chapter 451, Oregon Laws  
13 1995, section 1, chapter 384, Oregon Laws 1999, section 1, chapter 28, Oregon Laws 2007, and sec-  
14 tion 353, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2007, is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 9.** As used in sections 9 to 14, chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, unless the context requires  
16 otherwise:

17 (1) “Adaptive equipment” means equipment that permits a person with a disability, other than  
18 a person who is hard of hearing or speech impaired, to communicate effectively on the telephone.

19 (2) “Applicant” means a person who applies for an assistive telecommunication device, adaptive  
20 equipment or a signal device.

21 (3) “Assistive telecommunication device” means a device that utilizes a keyboard, acoustic cou-  
22 pler, display screen, Braille display, speakerphone or amplifier to enable people who are deaf, deaf-  
23 blind, severely hard of hearing or severely speech impaired to communicate effectively on the  
24 telephone.

25 (4) “Audiologist” means a person who has a master’s or doctoral degree in audiology and a  
26 Certificate of Clinical Competence in audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Asso-  
27 ciation.

28 (5) “Deaf” means a profound hearing loss, as determined by an audiologist or a vocational re-  
29 habilitation counselor of the Department of Human Services, that requires use of an assistive tele-  
30 communication device to communicate effectively on the telephone.

31 (6) “Deaf-blind” means a hearing loss and a visual impairment, as determined by a licensed  
32 physician and by an audiologist or a vocational rehabilitation counselor of the Department of Hu-  
33 man Services, that require use of an assistive telecommunication device to communicate effectively  
34 on the telephone.

35 (7) “Disability” means a physical condition, as determined by a licensed physician or vocational  
36 rehabilitation counselor of the Department of Human Services, other than hearing or speech  
37 impairment that requires use of adaptive equipment to utilize the telephone.

38 (8) “Hearing aid specialist” means a person licensed to deal in hearing aids under ORS chapter  
39 694.

40 (9) “Physician” means an applicant’s primary care physician or a medical specialist who is able  
41 to determine an applicant’s disability and to whom the applicant was referred by the primary care  
42 physician.

43 (10) “Recipient” means a person who receives adaptive equipment, an assistive telecommuni-  
44 cation device or a signal device.

45 (11) “Severely hard of hearing” means a hearing loss, as determined by an audiologist or voca-

1 tional rehabilitation counselor of the Department of Human Services, that requires use of an  
 2 assistive telecommunication device to communicate effectively on the telephone.

3 (12) "Severely speech impaired" means a speech disability, as determined by a speech-language  
 4 pathologist or vocational rehabilitation counselor of the Department of Human Services, that re-  
 5 quires use of an assistive telecommunication device to communicate effectively on the telephone.

6 (13) "Signal device" means a mechanical device that alerts a person who is deaf, deaf-blind or  
 7 severely hard of hearing of an incoming telephone call.

8 (14) "Speech-language pathologist" means a person who has a master's degree or equivalency in  
 9 speech-language pathology and a Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American  
 10 Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

11 (15) "Telecommunications relay center" means a facility authorized by the Public Utility Com-  
 12 mission to provide telecommunications relay service.

13 (16) "Telecommunications relay service" means *[the provision of voice and teletype communication*  
 14 *between users of some assistive telecommunication devices and other parties.]* **a telephone trans-**  
 15 **mission service that provides the ability for an individual who has a hearing or speech disa-**  
 16 **bility to engage in communication by wire or radio with a hearing individual in a manner that**  
 17 **is functionally equivalent to the ability of an individual who does not have a hearing or**  
 18 **speech disability to communicate using voice communication services by wire or radio.**  
 19 **"Telecommunications relay service" includes, but is not limited to:**

20 (a) **Services that enable two-way communication between an individual using a text tele-**  
 21 **phone or other nonvoice terminal device and an individual not using such a device;**

22 (b) **Speech-to-speech services;**

23 (c) **Video relay services; and**

24 (d) **Non-English relay services.**

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 11, chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, as amended by section 4, chapter 872,  
 26 Oregon Laws 1991, section 3, chapter 384, Oregon Laws 1999, and section 355, chapter 70, Oregon  
 27 Laws 2007, is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 11.** (1) With the advice of the Telecommunication Devices Access Program Advisory Com-  
 29 mittee, the Public Utility Commission shall establish and administer a statewide program to pur-  
 30 chase and distribute assistive telecommunication devices to persons who are deaf, severely hard of  
 31 hearing, severely speech impaired or deaf-blind and establish a **telecommunications relay service**  
 32 *[dual party relay system making telephone service generally available to persons who are deaf, severely*  
 33 *hard of hearing, severely speech impaired or deaf-blind].*

34 (2) With the advice of the Telecommunication Devices Access Program Advisory Committee, the  
 35 Public Utility Commission shall establish and administer a statewide program to purchase and dis-  
 36 tribute adaptive equipment to make telephone service generally available to persons with physical  
 37 disabilities.