

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Action Date:** 04/02/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/19, 04/02

**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson

Exc: 1 - Weidner

**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Extends sunset on collection of certain moneys from electric companies or Oregon Community Power for purposes related to low-income electric bill payment assistance from January 2, 2016 to January 2, 2018. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of measure
- Public Utility Commission docket item on payment assistance programs

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is federally-funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is designed to help low-income households with home heating costs. To be eligible to receive assistance, a household's income must be at or below 60 percent of Oregon's median income, based on household income and household size. Recipients must also have documented energy costs. The program in Oregon is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Services.

Senate Bill 863 (2011) directed the Public Utility Commission to collect an additional \$5 million per year for the low-income bill payment assistance program in the event certain criteria were met as of January 1, 2014. This measure was set to sunset on January 2, 2014. House Bill 2004 (2013) extended the sunset date to January 2, 2016. House Bill 3257 would extend the sunset date until January 2, 2018.