

Enrolled Senate Bill 32

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CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to natural gas; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that having access to natural gas is in the public interest and that the extension of natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure necessary for providing natural gas to areas that do not have access to natural gas is necessary for the communities of this state to preserve local economies, enlarge tax bases and generate additional economic opportunities.

SECTION 2. (1) The Public Utility Commission shall form a work group for the purpose of conducting a study on methods by which a public utility that furnishes natural gas may expand the public utility's service to areas that do not have access to natural gas. As part of the study, the work group shall review the commission's authority to authorize, and the commission's policies on, the expansion of natural gas services. At a minimum, the work group shall study:

- (a) The commission's policies regarding the extension of natural gas mains;**
- (b) Mechanisms for funding the expansion of natural gas services, including the use of tariffs, the imposition of charges and fees, the use of unclaimed refunds and the establishment of accounts dedicated to the expansion of natural gas services;**
- (c) The submission of recommendations by public utilities that furnish natural gas;**
- (d) Possible processes for including in a public utility's rates the cost of projects involving the extension of natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure necessary for providing natural gas;**
- (e) Possible selection criteria for projects involving the extension of natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure necessary for providing natural gas; and**
- (f) The potential rate cap for projects involving the extension of natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure necessary for providing natural gas.**

(2) The commission shall include in the work group:

- (a) Representatives of public utilities that furnish natural gas, other energy suppliers, local governments and elected officials;**
- (b) Stakeholders who have an interest in the outcome of the study;**
- (c) Individuals who have knowledge about the subject matter of the study;**

(d) One member from the House of Representatives who represents an area that does not have access to natural gas; and

(e) One member from the Senate who represents an area that does not have access to natural gas.

(3) The commission shall compile a report, including any recommendations for legislation, of the work group's findings and conclusions. The commission shall submit the report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than September 15, 2016.

SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2015 Act are repealed on January 2, 2017.

SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by Senate March 4, 2015

Received by Governor:

Repassed by Senate June 30, 2015

.....M.,....., 2015

Approved:

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

.....M.,....., 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

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Kate Brown, Governor

Passed by House June 29, 2015

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

.....M.,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State