

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/10/16

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/10

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies that the term “public utility” does not include people’s utility districts or electric cooperatives for the purpose of regulation by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Does not make substantive change to current practice
- Narrowed by amendment to ensure no unintended consequences

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates customer rates and services of the state’s investor-owned electric, natural gas and telephone utilities, as well as certain water companies. The PUC does not regulate many consumer-owned utilities, such as people’s utility districts and rural electric cooperatives.

Senate Bill 1547-A clarifies the definition of “public utility” to definitively specify that the PUC does not have regulatory authority over people’s utility districts and electric cooperatives. The statutory change does not alter current regulatory practice by the Commission.