

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/23/16

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill. Refer To Rules.

Meeting Dates: 02/18, 02/23

Vote:

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

Exc: 1 - Boone

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, 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:

- Types of utilities that have become established since law was first enacted
- Oversight of public utility districts and electric cooperatives

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 consumer-owned utilities, such as people’s utility districts and rural electric cooperatives.

Senate Bill 1547A would clarify the definition of “public utility” to specify that the PUC does not have regulatory authority over people’s utility districts or electric cooperatives. The measure will not alter the current regulatory practice of the PUC.