

**HB 2092 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Economic Development and Trade**

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**Prepared By:** Adam Crawford, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Specifies that telecommunications carriers not receiving universal service fund moneys are not required to provide retail telecommunications services on demand, extend retail telecommunications services to areas that do not have access to it, or rebuild telecommunications service infrastructure to improve service quality starting July 1, 2017. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC) was directed by the 1999 Oregon Legislative Assembly to create and implement the Oregon Universal Service (OUS) fund and pay for it with a surcharge on all retail telecommunications sales in Oregon. The OUS fund is designed to support local telephone companies that provide basic telephone service in high-cost rural areas in Oregon. The purpose is to ensure that basic telephone service is available at reasonably comparable and affordable rates throughout the state.

House Bill 2092 would allow telecommunications carriers not receiving OUS funds from being required to provide telecommunications services starting July 1, 2017.