

**SB 83 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Clarifies that party to contested case may seek judicial review of order issued by Public Utility Commission. Makes conforming amendments.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under Oregon law, any person adversely affected by a agency order or any party to an agency proceeding is entitled to have the courts review the final order of the proceeding. Judicial review of contested cases are heard by the Oregon Court of Appeals. The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates rates and services provided by many utilities and has existed in some form since 1843. Currently, the PUC is a three-member panel appointed by the Governor. The PUC has an Administrative Hearings Division, where administrative law judges hear contested cases. Current law allows any party to a hearing to have standing to seek judicial review of any PUC order, including those that may not qualify as "contested cases."

Senate Bill 83 A clarifies that a party to the contested case may seek judicial review and may only be sought in contested cases.