

**SB 659 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Business and Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires nongovernmental entity, as a condition of receiving public purpose charge moneys, to be assessed by an independent third party. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 1149 (2001) directed the state's two largest electric utilities, Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp, to assess a three-percent "public purpose charge" on consumer energy bills to provide funding for energy conservation, renewable resource development and low-income energy programs. Revenues generated from the public purpose are allocated to five activities: energy conservation in homes and businesses (56 percent); construction of new renewable resource power plants and other renewable resource projects (17 percent); weatherization of low-income households (12 percent); energy conservation in schools (10 percent); and rehabilitation and construction of low-income housing (five percent). The first two uses listed above are overseen by the Energy Trust of Oregon.