

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: SB 1023**

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Establishes Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Fund.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Human Services (DHS), Public Utility Commission (PUC)

**Analysis:**

Senate Bill 1023 establishes the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Fund separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned does not revert to the General Fund. Moneys in the Fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Human Services for the administration of programs for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing. The bill directs the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to transfer an unspecified percentage of the residential service protection and assistive telecommunication devices surcharge moneys to this Fund. This transfer requirement sunsets on January 2, 2020. The bill takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2017 legislative session adjourns sine die.

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate depending on the percentage of the residential service protection and assistive telecommunication devices surcharge moneys that PUC is required to transfer into the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Fund. The surcharge is currently seven cents and by statute, the rate cannot exceed 35 cents. The surcharge provides revenue for the following PUC Residential Service Protection programs, as required by law:

- The Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service (OTRS), as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, allows persons with a hearing or speech disability to use the telephone system via a text telephone (TTY) or other device to call persons with or without such disabilities.
- The Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) is the state-mandated counterpart of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Lifeline program. It provides eligible low-income customers with a discount on monthly residential or cellular phone service.
- The Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) loans specialized telephone equipment to Oregonians who have a loss in hearing, speech, mobility, cognition, or vision.
- The Emergency Medical Certificates (EMC) Program allows customers of PUC-regulated telecommunications, electric, or natural gas, to enter into a time payment arrangement to stop disconnection of service for qualified medical conditions.