

SB 84 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Gregory Jolivette, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/12, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands the base of telecommunications customers who pay the Residential Services Protection Fund (RSPF) surcharge to include customers who have interconnected Voice-over-Internet-protocol service with access to the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Merits of the bill
- Fiscal Impact

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) Program helps eligible low-income Oregonians with access to affordable telephone service, and loans specialized telephone equipment to Oregonians who have functional disabilities and impairments. The program is supported by a surcharge on telephone and wireless service customers with access to the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service, which allows persons with a hearing or speech disability to use the telephone system via a text telephone or other device to call persons with or without a disability. Statute caps the surcharge at 35 cents per month. It is currently seven cents per month. SB 84 applies the surcharge to customers who have interconnected Voice-over-Internet-protocol service with access to the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service.