

SB 84

Relating to a surcharge collected for funding telecommunications programs

The Residential Services Protection Fund Program helps eligible low-income and disabled 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. The surcharge is currently seven cents per month, far below the statutory cap of 35 cents per month.

SB 84 expands the base of customers to whom the surcharge applies to include customers who have interconnected Voice-over-Internet-protocol service with access to the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service. It makes the surcharge more equitable by applying it to all subscribers with access to the relay service, and helps to sustain funding for important programs.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 84 be reported out do pass.