

HB 2134 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies the process by which the Public Utility Commission collects moneys from electric companies for purposes related to low-income electric bill payment assistance. Raises the amount that can be collected from \$15 million to \$20 million. Takes effect on January 2, 2018.

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 461 (2007), directing the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a rate to be collected by each electric company sufficient to generate \$15 million to provide bill payment assistance for low-income Oregonians. Senate Bill 863 (2011) directed PUC to collect an additional \$5 million per year for the program in the event that certain criteria were met; this additional allocation was scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2014, but was extended in 2013 (House Bill 2004) and 2015 (House Bill 3257). The additional \$5 million is currently scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2018.

House Bill 2134-A does not extend the sunset on the additional \$5 million collection; instead, the measure increases the originally-authorized \$15 million to \$20 million, effective the day that the additional \$5 million is scheduled to sunset.

HOUSE VOTE: 56-0