

HB 3268 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Carrier: Sen. Beyer

Action Date: 05/31/17
Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)
Vote: 3-2-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley
Nays: 2 - Girod, Thomsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program Advisory Committee. Directs the Public Utility Commission to use surcharge moneys from the Telephone Assistance Program on marketing and outreach to increase participation in the assistance plan developed by the Commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of telephone access for all Oregonians
- Whether money spent on advertising program would reduce services
- Method for determining eligibility for programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that operative dates and repeal dates in measure are triggered when participation rate reaches 26 percent.

BACKGROUND:

The federal Lifeline Program provides free telephones to low-income individuals; all Medicaid members are eligible for one telephone or Internet connection per household. There are approximately 1 million individuals enrolled on the Oregon Health Plan. At least 41 states differ from the federal government with regard to regulation of the program; Oregon is the only state with its own regulatory agency, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), which imposes additional regulations on the program.