House Bill 3019

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Provides that certain amount of moneys collected from retail electricity consumers as public purpose charge may be used for transportation electrification.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to transportation electrification; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 757.600, 757.612 and 757.676.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 757.612 is amended to read:

757.612. (1) There is established an annual public purpose expenditure standard for electric companies and Oregon Community Power to fund new cost-effective local energy conservation, new market transformation efforts, **transportation electrification efforts**, the above-market costs of new renewable energy resources and new low-income weatherization. The public purpose expenditure standard shall be funded by the public purpose charge described in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) Beginning on the date an electric company or Oregon Community Power offers direct access to [its] retail electricity consumers, except residential electricity consumers, the electric company or Oregon Community Power shall collect a public purpose charge from all of the retail electricity consumers located within [its] the electric company's or Oregon Community Power's service area until January 1, 2026. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the public purpose charge shall be equal to three percent of the total revenues collected by the electric company, Oregon Community Power or the electricity service supplier from [its] retail electricity consumers for electricity services, distribution services, ancillary services, metering and billing, transition charges and other types of costs included in electric rates on July 23, 1999.

- (b) For an aluminum plant that averages more than 100 average megawatts of electricity use per year, [beginning on March 1, 2002,] the electric company or Oregon Community Power [whose], whichever serves territory that abuts the greatest percentage of the site of the aluminum plant, shall collect from the aluminum company a public purpose charge equal to one percent of the total revenue from the sale of electricity [services] to the aluminum plant [from any source].
- (3)(a) The Public Utility Commission shall establish rules implementing the provisions of this section relating to electric companies and Oregon Community Power.
- (b) [Subject to paragraph (e)] Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection, funds collected [by an electric company or Oregon Community Power] through public purpose charges under subsection (2) of this section shall be allocated as follows:
 - (A) Sixty-three percent for new cost-effective local energy conservation, new market transfor-

mation efforts and transportation electrification efforts.

- (B) Nineteen percent for the above-market costs of constructing and operating new renewable energy resources with a nominal electric generating capacity, as defined in ORS 469.300, of 20 megawatts or less.
 - (C) Thirteen percent for new low-income weatherization.
- (D) Five percent [shall be transferred to] for deposit in the Housing and Community Services Department Electricity Public Purpose Charge Fund established by ORS 456.587 (1) [and used] for the purpose of providing grants as described in ORS 458.625 (2).
- (c) The costs of administering subsections (1) to (6) of this section for an electric company or Oregon Community Power shall be paid out of the funds collected through public purpose charges. The commission may require [that] an electric company or Oregon Community Power to direct funds collected through public purpose charges to [the] state agencies responsible for implementing subsections (1) to (6) of this section in order to pay the costs of [administering such responsibilities] implementation.
- (d) The commission shall direct the manner in which public purpose charges are collected and spent by an electric company or Oregon Community Power and may require an electric company or Oregon Community Power to expend funds through competitive bids or other means designed to encourage competition, except that funds dedicated for **new** low-income weatherization shall be directed to the Housing and Community Services Department [as provided in subsection (7) of this section] for purposes related to new low-income weatherization. The commission [may also direct that] may also require funds collected [by an electric company or Oregon Community Power] through public purpose charges to be paid to a nongovernmental entity for investment in public purposes described in subsection (1) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection:
- (A) If an electric company collected the funds, at least 80 percent of the funds allocated [for conservation] under paragraph (b)(A) of this subsection shall be spent within the service area of the electric company [that collected the funds]; or
- (B) If Oregon Community Power collected the funds, at least 80 percent of the funds allocated [for conservation] under paragraph (b)(A) of this subsection shall be spent within the service area of Oregon Community Power.
- (e)(A) The first 10 percent of [the] funds collected [annually] each year by an electric company or Oregon Community Power under subsection (2) of this section shall be distributed to school districts that are located in the service territory of the electric company or Oregon Community Power. The funds shall be distributed to individual school districts according to the weighted average daily membership (ADMw) of each school district for the prior fiscal year as calculated under ORS 327.013. The commission shall establish by rule a methodology for distributing a proportionate share of funds under this paragraph to school districts that are only partially located in the service territory of the electric company or Oregon Community Power.
- (B) A school district that receives funds under this paragraph shall use the funds first to pay for energy audits for schools located within the school district. A school district may not expend additional funds received under this paragraph on a school [facility] until an energy audit has been completed for that school [facility]. To the extent practicable, a school district shall coordinate with the State Department of Energy and incorporate federal funding in complying with this paragraph. Following completion of an energy audit for an individual school, the school district may expend funds received under this paragraph to implement the energy audit. Once an energy audit has been conducted and completely implemented for each school within the school district, the school district

1 may expend funds received under this paragraph for any of the following purposes:

- (i) Conducting **additional** energy audits. A school district shall conduct an energy audit prior to expending funds on any other purpose authorized under this paragraph unless the school district has performed an energy audit within the three years immediately prior to receiving the funds.
- (ii) [Weatherization] Weatherizing school district facilities and upgrading the energy efficiency of school district facilities.
 - (iii) Energy conservation education programs.

- (iv) Purchasing electricity from [environmentally focused] sources that protect the environment. [and]
 - (v) Investing in renewable energy resources.
- (f) The commission may not establish a different public purpose charge than the public purpose charge described in subsection (2) of this section.
- (g) If the commission [directs] requires funds collected through public purpose charges to be paid to a nongovernmental entity, the entity shall, pursuant to an agreement entered into or renewed between the commission and the entity:
- (A) Include on the entity's board of directors an ex officio member designated by the commission, who shall also serve on the entity's nominating committee for filling board vacancies.
- (B) Require the entity's officers and directors to provide an annual disclosure of economic interest to be filed with the commission on or prior to April 15 of each calendar year for public review in a form similar to the statement of economic interest required for public officials under ORS 244.060.
- (C) Require the entity's officers and directors to declare actual and potential conflicts of interest at regular meetings of the entity's governing body when such conflicts arise, and require an officer or director to abstain from participating in any discussion or [vote] voting on any item where that officer or director has an actual conflict of interest. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "actual conflict of interest" and "potential conflict of interest" have the meanings given those terms in ORS 244.020.
- (D) **Annually,** arrange for an independent auditor to audit the entity's financial statements [annually], and direct the auditor to file an audit opinion with the commission for public review.
- (E) **Annually** file with the commission [annually] the entity's budget, action plan and quarterly and annual reports for public review.
- (F) At least once every five years, contract for an independent management evaluation to review the entity's operations, efficiency and effectiveness, and direct the independent reviewer to file a report with the commission for public review.
- (h) The commission may remove from the board of directors of a nongovernmental entity an officer or director who fails to provide an annual disclosure of economic interest, or **who fails to** declare **an** actual or potential conflict of interest, as described in paragraph (g)(B) and (C) of this subsection, [in connection with] **if the failure is connected to** the allocation or expenditure of funds collected through public purpose charges and [directed] **paid** to the entity.
 - (4)(a) An electric company that satisfies its obligations under this section [shall have]:
- (A) Has no further obligation to invest in **new cost-effective local energy** conservation, new market transformation, **transportation electrification** or new low-income weatherization, or to provide a commercial energy conservation services program; and
 - (B) Is not subject to ORS 469.631 to 469.645 and 469.860 to 469.900.
 - (b) Oregon Community Power, for any period during which Oregon Community Power collects

a public purpose charge under subsection (2) of this section:

- (A) [Shall have] Has no [other] further obligation to invest in new cost-effective local energy conservation, new market transformation, transportation electrification or new low-income weatherization, or to provide a commercial energy conservation services program; and
 - (B) Is not subject to ORS 469.631 to 469.645 and 469.860 to 469.900.
- (5)(a) A retail electricity consumer that uses more than one average megawatt of electricity at any site in the prior year shall receive a credit against public purpose charges billed by an electric company or Oregon Community Power for that site. The amount of the credit shall be equal to the total amount of qualifying expenditures for [new energy conservation] purposes specified in subsection (3)(b)(A) of this section, not to exceed 68 percent of the annual public purpose charges, and the above-market costs [of purchases] of new renewable energy resources incurred by the retail electricity consumer, not to exceed 19 percent of the annual public purpose charges, less administration costs incurred under this paragraph and paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection. The credit may not exceed, on an annual basis, the lesser of:
 - (A) The amount of the retail electricity consumer's qualifying expenditures; or
- (B) The portion of the public purpose charge billed to the retail electricity consumer that is dedicated to new **cost-effective local** energy conservation, new market transformation, **transportation electrification** or the above-market costs of new renewable energy resources.
- (b) To obtain a credit under **paragraph** (a) of this subsection, a retail electricity consumer shall file with the State Department of Energy a description of the proposed conservation project or new renewable energy resource and a declaration that the retail electricity consumer plans to incur the qualifying expenditure. The State Department of Energy shall issue a notice of precertification within 30 days of receipt of the filing, if such filing is consistent with **paragraph** (a) of this subsection. The credit may be taken after a retail electricity consumer provides a letter from a certified public accountant to the State Department of Energy verifying that the precertified qualifying expenditure has been made.
- (c) Credits earned by a retail electricity consumer as a result of qualifying expenditures that are not used in one year may be carried forward for use in subsequent years.
- (d)(A) A retail electricity consumer that uses more than one average megawatt of electricity at any site in the prior year may request that the State Department of Energy hire an independent auditor to assess the potential for conservation investments at the site. If the independent auditor determines there is no available conservation measure at the site that would have a simple payback of one to 10 years, the retail electricity consumer shall be relieved of 54 percent of its payment obligation for public purpose charges related to the site. If the independent auditor determines that there are potential conservation measures available at the site, the retail electricity consumer shall be entitled to a credit against public purpose charges related to the site equal to 54 percent of the public purpose charges less the estimated cost of available conservation measures.
- (B) A retail electricity consumer shall be entitled each year to the credit described in this [subsection] **paragraph** unless a subsequent independent audit determines that new conservation investment opportunities are available. The State Department of Energy may require that a new independent audit be performed on the site to determine whether new conservation measures are available, provided that the independent audits [shall] occur no more than once every two years.
- (C) The retail electricity consumer shall pay the cost of the independent audits described in this [subsection] paragraph.
 - (6) Electric utilities and retail electricity consumers shall receive a fair and reasonable credit

for the public purpose expenditures of their energy suppliers. The State Department of Energy shall adopt rules to determine eligible expenditures and the [methodology] method by which such credits are accounted for and used. The [rules] State Department of Energy also shall adopt methods to account for eligible public purpose expenditures made through consortia or collaborative projects.

(7)(a) In addition to the public purpose charge provided under subsection (2) of this section, an electric company or Oregon Community Power shall collect funds for low-income electric bill payment assistance in an amount determined under paragraph (b) of this subsection.

- (b) The commission shall establish the amount to be collected by each electric company in calendar year 2008 from retail electricity consumers served by the company, and the rates to be charged to retail electricity consumers served by the company, so that the total anticipated collection for low-income electric bill payment assistance by all electric companies in calendar year 2008 is \$15 million. In calendar year 2009 and subsequent calendar years, the commission may not change the rates established for retail electricity consumers, but the total amount collected in a calendar year for low-income electric bill payment assistance may vary based on electricity usage by retail electricity consumers and changes in the number of retail electricity consumers in this state. In no event shall a retail electricity consumer be required to pay more than \$500 per month per site for low-income electric bill payment assistance.
- (c) Funds collected [by] through the low-income electric bill payment assistance charge shall be paid into the Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2). Moneys deposited in the fund under this paragraph shall be used by the Housing and Community Services Department solely for [the purpose of funding] purposes related to low-income electric bill payment assistance[.] and for the Housing and Community Services Department's cost of administering this subsection. [shall be paid out of funds collected by the low-income electric bill payment assistance charge. Moneys deposited in the fund under this paragraph shall be expended solely for low-income electric bill payment assistance.] Funds collected [from] by an electric company or Oregon Community Power under this subsection shall be expended in the service area of the electric company or Oregon Community Power from which the funds are collected.
- (d)(A) The Housing and Community Services Department shall determine the manner in which funds collected under this subsection will be allocated by the **Housing and Community Services** Department to energy assistance program providers for the purpose of providing low-income bill payment [and crisis] assistance.
- (B) The **Housing and Community Services** Department, **in consultation with electric companies**, shall investigate and may implement alternative delivery models [in consultation with electric companies] to effectively reduce service disconnections and related costs to retail electricity consumers and electric utilities.
- (C) Priority assistance shall be directed to low-income electricity consumers who are in danger of having their electricity service disconnected.
- (D) The **Housing and Community Services** Department shall maintain records and provide those records upon request to an electric company, Oregon Community Power and the Citizens' Utility Board established under ORS chapter 774 on a quarterly basis. Records maintained must include the numbers of low-income electricity consumers served, the average amounts paid to low-income electricity consumers and the type of assistance provided to low-income electricity consumers. Electric companies and Oregon Community Power shall, if requested, provide the **Housing and Community Services** Department with aggregate data relating to **low-income elec-**

tricity consumers served on a quarterly basis to support program development.

- (e) Interest on moneys deposited in the Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2) may be used to provide bill payment [and crisis] assistance to electricity consumers whose primary source of heat is not electricity.
- (f) Notwithstanding ORS 757.310, the commission may allow an electric company or Oregon Community Power to provide reduced rates or other **bill** payment [or crisis] assistance or low-income program assistance to a low-income household eligible for assistance under the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended and in effect on July 23, 1999.
- (8) For purposes of this section, "retail electricity consumers" includes any direct service industrial consumer that purchases electricity without purchasing distribution services from the electric utility.
- (9) For purposes of this section, [amounts] **funds** collected by Oregon Community Power through public purpose charges are not considered moneys received from electric utility operations.

SECTION 2. ORS 757.600 is amended to read:

757.600. As used in ORS 757.600 to 757.689, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Aggregate" means combining retail electricity consumers into a buying group for the purchase of electricity and related services.
- (2) "Ancillary services" means services necessary or incidental to the transmission and delivery of electricity from generating facilities to retail electricity consumers, including but not limited to scheduling, load shaping, reactive power, voltage control and energy balancing services.
 - (3) "Commission" means the Public Utility Commission.
- (4) "Consumer-owned utility" means a municipal electric utility, a people's utility district or an electric cooperative.
- (5) "Default supplier" means an electricity service supplier or electric company that has a legal obligation to provide electricity services to a consumer, as determined by the commission.
- (6) "Direct access" means the ability of a retail electricity consumer to purchase electricity and certain ancillary services, as determined by the commission for an electric company or the governing body of a consumer-owned utility, directly from an entity other than the distribution utility.
- (7) "Direct service industrial consumer" means an end user of electricity that obtains electricity directly from the transmission grid and not through a distribution utility.
- (8) "Distribution" means the delivery of electricity to retail electricity consumers through a distribution system consisting of local area power poles, transformers, conductors, meters, substations and other equipment.
- (9) "Distribution utility" means an electric utility that owns and operates a distribution system connecting the transmission grid to the retail electricity consumer.
- (10) "Economic utility investment" means all electric company investments, including plants and equipment and contractual or other legal obligations, properly dedicated to generation or conservation, that were prudent at the time the obligations were assumed but the full benefits of which are no longer available to consumers as a direct result of ORS 757.600 to 757.667, absent transition credits. "Economic utility investment" does not include costs or expenses disallowed by the commission in a prudence review or other proceeding, to the extent of such disallowance, and does not include fines or penalties authorized and imposed under state or federal law.
- (11) "Electric company" means an entity engaged in the business of distributing electricity to retail electricity consumers in this state, but does not include a consumer-owned utility.

- (12) "Electric cooperative" means an electric cooperative corporation organized under ORS chapter 62 or under the laws of another state if the service territory of the electric cooperative includes a portion of this state.
- (13) "Electric utility" means an electric company or consumer-owned utility that is engaged in the business of distributing electricity to retail electricity consumers in this state.
- (14) "Electricity" means electric energy, measured in kilowatt-hours, or electric capacity, measured in kilowatts, or both.
- (15) "Electricity services" means electricity distribution, transmission, generation or generation-related services.
- (16) "Electricity service supplier" means a person or entity that offers to sell electricity services available pursuant to direct access to more than one retail electricity consumer. "Electricity service supplier" does not include an electric utility selling electricity to retail electricity consumers in its own service territory.
- (17) "Governing body" means the board of directors or the commissioners of an electric cooperative or people's utility district, or the council or board of a city with respect to a municipal electric utility.
- (18) "Load" means the amount of electricity delivered to or required by a retail electricity consumer at a specific point of delivery.
- (19) "Low-income weatherization" means repairs, weatherization and installation of energy efficient appliances and fixtures for low-income residences for the purpose of enhancing energy efficiency.
- (20) "Municipal electric utility" means an electric distribution utility owned and operated by or on behalf of a city.
- (21) "New renewable energy resource" means a renewable energy resource project, or a new addition to an existing renewable energy resource project, or the electricity produced by the project, that is not in operation on July 23, 1999. "New renewable energy resource" does not include any portion of a renewable energy resource project under contract to the Bonneville Power Administration on or before July 23, 1999.
 - (22) "One average megawatt" means 8,760,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.
 - (23) "People's utility district" has the meaning given that term in ORS 261.010.
- (24) "Portfolio access" means the ability of a retail electricity consumer to choose from a set of product and pricing options for electricity determined by the governing board of a consumer-owned utility and may include product and pricing options offered by the utility or by an electricity service supplier.
- (25) "Power generation company" means a company engaged in the production and sale of electricity to wholesale customers, including but not limited to independent power producers, affiliated generation companies, municipal and state authorities, provided the company is not regulated by the commission.
- (26) "Qualifying expenditures" means those expenditures for energy conservation measures that have a simple payback period of not less than one year and not more than 10 years, and expenditures for the above-market costs of new renewable energy resources, provided that the State Department of Energy by rule may establish a limit on the maximum above-market cost for renewable energy that is allowed as a credit.
 - (27) "Renewable energy resources" means:
 - (a) Electricity generation facilities fueled by wind, waste, solar or geothermal power or by low-

- 1 emission nontoxic biomass based on solid organic fuels from wood, forest and field residues.
 - (b) Dedicated energy crops available on a renewable basis.
 - (c) Landfill gas and digester gas.

- (d) Hydroelectric facilities located outside protected areas as defined by federal law in effect on July 23, 1999.
- (28) "Residential electricity consumer" means an electricity consumer who resides at a dwelling primarily used for residential purposes. "Residential electricity consumer" does not include retail electricity consumers in a dwelling typically used for residency periods of less than 30 days, including hotels, motels, camps, lodges and clubs. As used in this subsection, "dwelling" includes but is not limited to single family dwellings, separately metered apartments, adult foster homes, manufactured dwellings, recreational vehicles and floating homes.
- (29) "Retail electricity consumer" means the end user of electricity for specific purposes such as heating, lighting or operating equipment, and includes all end users of electricity served through the distribution system of an electric utility on or after July 23, 1999, whether or not each end user purchases the electricity from the electric utility.
- (30) "Site" means a single contiguous area of land containing buildings or other structures that are separated by not more than 1,000 feet, or buildings and related structures that are interconnected by facilities owned by a single retail electricity consumer and that are served through a single electric meter.
- (31) "Transition charge" means a charge or fee that recovers all or a portion of an uneconomic utility investment.
- (32) "Transition credit" means a credit that returns to consumers all or a portion of the benefits from an economic utility investment.
- (33) "Transmission facility" means the plant and equipment used to transmit electricity in interstate commerce.
 - (34) "Transportation electrification" means:
- (a) The use of electricity from external sources to provide power to all or part of a vehicle;
- (b) Programs related to developing the use of electricity for the purpose described in paragraph (a) of this subsection; and
- (c) Infrastructure investments related to developing the use of electricity for the purpose described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- [(34)] (35) "Undue market power" means the unfair or improper exercise of influence to increase or decrease the availability or price of a service or product in a manner inconsistent with competitive markets.
- [(35)] (36) "Uneconomic utility investment" means all electric company investments, including plants and equipment and contractual or other legal obligations, properly dedicated to generation, conservation and workforce commitments, that were prudent at the time the obligations were assumed but the full costs of which are no longer recoverable as a direct result of ORS 757.600 to 757.667, absent transition charges. "Uneconomic utility investment" does not include costs or expenses disallowed by the commission in a prudence review or other proceeding, to the extent of such disallowance, and does not include fines or penalties as authorized by state or federal law.
 - **SECTION 3.** ORS 757.676 is amended to read:
- 757.676. The governing body of a consumer-owned utility is authorized to determine whether and under what terms and conditions it will offer its retail electricity consumers direct access, portfolio

access or other forms of access to electric service suppliers. In making such determination, the governing body of a consumer-owned utility shall consider such factors as it deems appropriate. A consumer-owned utility shall have sole authority to determine:

- (1) The quality and nature of electric service, including but not limited to different product and pricing options, which shall be made available to its retail electricity consumers.
- (2) The extent to which products and services will be unbundled and the rates, tariffs, terms and conditions on which they may be offered.
- (3) Whether one or more pilot programs for direct access, portfolio access or other forms of access to alternative suppliers will be offered.
- (4) Notwithstanding ORS 757.600 (10) and [(35),] (36), what constitutes an economic or uneconomic utility investment, the value of such investments and, in the case of uneconomic utility investments, the manner and means of mitigating such investments.
- (5) Whether and on what basis a transition charge will be adopted, assessed and collected from a retail electricity consumer located within the utility's service territory, including but not limited to a nonbypassable distribution charge, the amount and period of recovery for the charges, the allocation of the charges among retail electricity consumers located within the utility's service territory and the method of collecting such charges including but not limited to whether to impose a nonbypassable distribution charge.
- (6) The manner of collecting stranded distribution charges, systems benefit charges, franchise fees, taxes and payments made in lieu of taxes from retail electricity consumers located within the utility's service territory for electric power transactions using transmission facilities, whether or not such transactions use distribution facilities. The governing body may assign charges on the basis of usage, demand or any combination or method it finds appropriate. Charges need not be assigned to specific facilities.
- (7) The collection from retail electricity consumers located within the utility's service territory through rates, fees or charges, including the imposition of a nonbypassable distribution charge, in amounts sufficient to recover 100 percent of stranded costs imposed by, or incurred pursuant to the purchase of cost-based electric power from, the Bonneville Power Administration. Such stranded cost charges may include the difference in cost associated with purchasing electric power from the Bonneville Power Administration and the cost of purchasing a like and similar amount of electric power at market prices.
- (8) The establishment of technical capability requirements, financial responsibility requirements and other protections for retail electricity consumers located within the utility's service territory and the consumer-owned utility in dealings with electric service suppliers.
- (9) Access to or use of the utility's transmission facilities or distribution system by retail electricity consumers or electric service suppliers.
- (10) The utility's qualification standards for energy service suppliers in addition to any certification standards established by the Public Utility Commission, provided that the qualification standards are uniformly applied to electricity service providers in a nondiscriminatory manner.

SECTION 4. The amendments to ORS 757.612 by section 1 of this 2017 Act apply to public purpose charge moneys allocated on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.