

**SB 69 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

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**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 1/31

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Includes broadband internet in the services for which the Public Utility Commission must establish a plan to provide low-income assistance.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) administers the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP), a joint state and federal program that provides reduced-cost phone and broadband internet service for qualifying low-income households. Households can qualify for the subsidy by demonstrating their income or participation in a government assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Current Oregon statute requires the PUC to provide low-income assistance only for phone service. Broadband subsidies in the OTAP are provided only through federal funds. Senate Bill 69 aligns the OTAP with federal regulations, increasing the discount low-income households can receive on their broadband internet service from \$9.75 to \$12.75 per month.