

HB 3065 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish public process to investigate continuing relevance of carrier of last resort obligations. Requires investigation to focus on developing industry trends, technologies, policy drivers, existing regulatory system and incentives, individual customer needs, and viable telecommunication service providers. Requires PUC develop plans to implement changes or make recommendations to Legislative Assembly if it determines that changes to regulatory system and incentives would be in the interest of residential consumers and public generally. Requires PUC to solicit input from specified stakeholders including Citizen's Utility Board, rural residents, advocates for low-income persons, and senior citizens. Requires PUC to submit report on findings and recommendations for legislation to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020. Sunsets January 2, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The carrier of last resort obligation is the requirement for local exchange telecommunications service providers certified by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to provide adequate and nondiscriminatory services to customers within allocated territories. The Oregon Universal Service Fund uses a surcharge on all retail telecommunication sales to support local telephone companies that provide basic telephone service in rural communities.

House Bill 3065-A requires the PUC to conduct a public investigation to determine whether industry trends, technologies, and policy drivers in the telecommunications sector demand changes to Oregon's regulatory model and incentives. The PUC must report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.