

HB 3205 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Evans

House Committee On Business and Labor

Action Date: 03/20/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-1-0

Yeas: 10 - Barker, Barreto, Bonham, Boshart Davis, Bynum, Clem, Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Holvey

Exc: 1 - Boles

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Public Utility Commission (PUC) to expand Telecommunication Devices Access Program to include providing communication facilitator services to persons who are deaf-blind when services are necessary. Defines "communication facilitator."

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unique needs of deaf-blind in using telephone
- Western Oregon University program to train communication facilitators

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies definition of "communication facilitator." Removes requirement that PUC contract for provision of communication facilitator services and instead directs PUC to expand Telecommunication Devices Access Program to include providing communication facilitator services to persons who are deaf-blind.

BACKGROUND:

In recognition of the large number of people in the state who are not able to utilize telecommunication equipment due to the inability to hear or speak well enough or due to other disabilities, the Legislative Assembly established the Telecommunication Devices Access Program in 1987. The program, administered by the Public Utility Commission with consultation of an advisory committee, purchases and distributes assistive communication equipment to persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or speech impaired, to be used in conjunction with the program's telecommunications relay service. House Bill 3205-A expands the program to include providing communication facilitator services to persons who are deaf-blind.