

House Bill 3065

Sponsored by Representative MARSH

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**.

Directs Public Utility Commission to establish public process for investigating continuing relevance of telecommunications carrier of last resort obligations.

Requires commission to submit report on investigation, which may include recommendations for legislation, to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to economic development and business and general government no later than September 15, 2020.

Sunset January 2, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to carrier of last resort obligations.

3 Whereas technological innovation has altered the telecommunications industry across the
4 United States and in Oregon; and

5 Whereas this technological innovation, as well as changing consumer preferences, potentially
6 brings into question the relevance of certain telecommunications regulatory requirements; now,
7 therefore,

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

9 **SECTION 1. (1) The Public Utility Commission shall establish a public process for the**
10 **purpose of investigating the continuing relevance of the carrier of last resort obligations**
11 **provided for under ORS 759.500 to 759.570. The investigation shall focus on whether develop-**
12 **ing industry trends, technologies and policy drivers in the telecommunications sector impact**
13 **the existing regulatory system employed by the commission for ensuring that telecommuni-**
14 **cations customers of this state receive adequate and safe service and are served in an ade-**
15 **quate and nondiscriminatory manner.**

16 **(2) As part of the public process established under subsection (1) of this section, the**
17 **commission shall investigate changes to the existing regulatory system and incentives that**
18 **could accommodate developing industry trends and support new policy objectives without**
19 **compromising adequate and safe service to all customers in an adequate and**
20 **nondiscriminatory manner. The investigation required by this subsection shall specifically**
21 **focus on how to ensure adequate protections for residential customers, particularly:**

22 **(a) Low-income customers; and**

23 **(b) Customers with access to not less than two voice communications service offerings**
24 **that, in terms of both quality and price, are competitive with the local exchange telecom-**
25 **munications services available to the customers.**

26 **(3) If the commission determines that changes to the existing regulatory system and in-**
27 **centives would be in the interest of customers and the public generally, the commission shall**
28 **develop plans to administratively implement changes to the regulatory system and incentives**
29 **or shall make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of legislatively**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **implementing changes to the regulatory system and incentives.**

2 **(4) As part of the public process established under subsection (1) of this section, the**
3 **commission shall:**

4 **(a) Solicit input from:**

5 **(A) Telecommunications utilities, cooperative corporations and municipalities certified**
6 **by the Public Utility Commission to provide local exchange telecommunications service;**

7 **(B) The Citizens' Utility Board; and**

8 **(C) Telecommunications industry representatives not described in subparagraph (A) of**
9 **this paragraph; and**

10 **(b) Provide the public with an opportunity to comment.**

11 **(5) The commission shall submit a report on the findings of the public process established**
12 **under subsection (1) of this section and the progress of investigations conducted under sub-**
13 **section (2) of this section in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees**
14 **of the Legislative Assembly related to economic development and business and general gov-**
15 **ernment no later than September 15, 2020. The commission may include, as part of the**
16 **commission's report, recommendations for legislation.**

17 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2021.**

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