

# Senate Bill 416

Sponsored by Senator BEYER (at the request of Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall) (Presession filed.)

## 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**.

Authorizes public utilities to implement charitable utility bill payment round up programs. Directs Public Utility Commission to adopt rules governing round up programs.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to coins for kids programs.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 757.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) A public utility may implement a charitable utility bill payment round**  
6 **up program. Under the round up program, a public utility may collect, through a participat-**  
7 **ing customer's bill, a charitable contribution of moneys equal to the difference between the**  
8 **total energy charges billed to the customer during a billing cycle and the nearest next whole**  
9 **dollar. A public utility that implements a round up program under this section shall:**

10 (a) **Identify the amount of the charitable contribution separately on bills to customers**  
11 **and label the amount as a "contribution to coins for kids"; and**

12 (b) **Provide a manner for customers to opt out of the round up program.**

13 (2) **Charitable contributions collected under the round up program may not be considered**  
14 **in any proceeding to establish rates for service and may not be expended on administration,**  
15 **marketing or outreach related to the round up program. Costs to a public utility related to**  
16 **the administration of a round up program are operational costs of the public utility.**

17 (3) **Charitable contributions collected under the round up program must be distributed**  
18 **to governmental or nonprofit entities that serve areas within the service territory of the**  
19 **public utility, to be used only for providing assistance and services to homeless youth. The**  
20 **amount of contributions distributed to be expended within a county must be equal to the**  
21 **proportion of moneys collected under the round up program in that county.**

22 (4) **A public utility may not be held liable in an action for damages brought by a utility**  
23 **customer resulting from contributions made by the customer under the round up program**  
24 **after failure by the customer to opt out of the round up program.**

25 (5) **The Public Utility Commission shall adopt rules governing charitable utility bill pay-**  
26 **ment round up programs authorized under this section.**

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**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.