

Senate Bill 68

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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**.

Increases annual fee imposed on public utilities and telecommunications providers for purpose of defraying costs of Public Utility Commission.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to fees imposed by the Public Utility Commission; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 756.310; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 756.310 is amended to read:

6 756.310. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (3) and (4) of this section, each public utility
7 and telecommunications provider shall pay a fee to the Public Utility Commission in each calendar
8 year. The amount of the fee shall equal the amount that the commission finds and determines to be
9 necessary, together with the amount of all other fees paid or payable to the commission by such
10 public utilities and telecommunications providers in the current calendar year, to defray the costs
11 of performing the duties imposed by law upon the commission with respect to the public utilities and
12 telecommunications providers.

13 (2) In each calendar year the percentage rate of the fee required to be paid by public utilities
14 shall be determined by orders entered by the commission on or after March 1 of each year. Notice
15 of the orders shall be given to each utility. The utility shall pay to the commission the fee or portion
16 thereof so computed upon the date specified in the notice. The date of payment shall be at least 15
17 days after the date of mailing of the notice.

18 (3) The fee payable under subsection (1) of this section by each public utility may not be less
19 than \$10, or more than [*three-tenths*] **forty-five hundredths** of one percent of the utility's gross
20 operating revenues derived within this state in the preceding calendar year. For the purpose of this
21 subsection, the gross operating revenues of an electric company do not include revenues from sales
22 of power for resale to the extent that the revenues from those sales exceed an amount equal to 25
23 percent of the total revenues received by the electric company from sales of electricity to end users
24 in the preceding calendar year.

25 (4)(a) For a telecommunications provider, the fee payable under subsection (1) of this section
26 shall be a percentage amount not to exceed [*three-tenths*] **thirty-five hundredths** of one percent of
27 the provider's gross retail intrastate revenue for each calendar year, but may not be less than \$100.
28 The percentage amount shall be determined by order of the commission not less than 60 days prior
29 to the calendar year upon which the fee is based. The fee shall be payable to the commission not
30 later than April 1 of the year following that calendar year.

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 (b) A telecommunications provider shall collect the fee payable under subsection (1) of this
2 section by charging an apportioned amount to each of the provider's retail customers. The amount
3 of the charge shall be described on the retail customer's bill in a manner determined by the pro-
4 vider.

5 (c) In the event a telecommunications utility has an approved rate that includes the fee required
6 under subsection (1) of this section and separately charges retail customers for the fee described in
7 this section, at the time the utility begins collecting the charge the utility shall file with the com-
8 mission a rate schedule reducing rates in an amount projected to equal the amount separately
9 charged to customers.

10 (5) The commission may use any of its investigatory and enforcement powers provided under this
11 chapter for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of this section.

12 (6) As used in this section:

13 (a) "Electric company" means any entity that is a public utility under ORS 757.005 that is en-
14 gaged in the business of distributing electricity to retail electric customers in Oregon.

15 (b) "Retail customer" does not include a purchaser of intrastate telecommunications services
16 who is a telecommunications provider, telecommunications cooperative, interexchange carrier or
17 radio common carrier.

18 (c) "Telecommunications provider" means any entity that is a telecommunications utility or a
19 competitive telecommunications provider as defined in ORS 759.005.

20 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 756.310 by section 1 of this 2019 Act apply to fees**
21 **imposed by the Public Utility Commission on or after the effective date of this 2019 Act.**

22 **SECTION 3. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
23 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
24 **on its passage.**

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