

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 615

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Establishes Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD), Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

SB 615 establishes the Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance Fund. Moneys in the Fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to establish a program to be administered by the Oregon Broadband Office to provide broadband bill payment assistance to low income households.

Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD)

The fiscal impact of this measure on OBDD is indeterminate depending on the amount of funds to be appropriated. OBDD anticipates using a portion of any funds appropriated to administer this program. Although the size of this new program and related administrative costs would depend on the amount of available moneys for awarding payment assistance, based on the measure’s stipulations and discussions with the Housing and Community Services Department, OBDD estimates the administrative cost to be approximately \$646,200 General Fund, 4 positions, and 3.25 FTE for the 2021-23 biennium; and \$775,000 General Fund, 4 positions, and 4.00 FTE for the 2023-25 biennium. This estimate reflects the personal services and related service and supplies for one Program Analyst 3 position, one Program Analyst 1 position, one Procurement and Contract Specialist 2 position, and one Accountant 2 position to administer the program. In addition, if federal funds become available for this program, OBDD may incur costs related with federal tracking and reporting requirements. After the program size and scope is further defined, OBDD may also need to increase the budget for web application development, outreach activities, and translation services.

Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD)

Passage of this measure is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact on HCSD. The agency will use existing staff and resources to consult with HCSD in developing the Low Income Broadband Bill Payment Assistance program.

Note that included in HCSD Governor’s budget is an appropriation of \$6,400,000 General Fund for a low income broadband payment assistance program.

Decisions regarding appropriate agency and funding amounts for a low income broadband bill payment assistance program need to be coordinated and reconciled between policy committees and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Therefore, a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means may be warranted.