

HB 2507 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Prepared By: Jaime McGovern, Economist

Meeting Dates: 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Decouples Oregon Telephone Assistance Program from funding offered by Federal Communications Commission (FCC), allowing the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) to continue assisting low income voice customers. Extends sunset applicable to Oregon Telephone Assistance Program to 2030.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently the Federal Lifeline Program and Oregon Telephone Assistance Program both provide stackable financial assistance to low income communications customers. The Federal government plans to phase out assistance to wireline voice customers, and only continue broadband assistance. Oregon currently aligns with the Federal Program, and may also be required to phase out voice support under current statute. The Oregon Telephone Assistance Program allows one support per household, either broadband or voice, for households under 135% of the Federal poverty line.