

House Bill 2490

Sponsored by Representative HOLVEY (Pre-session 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 Utility Commission to consider differential energy burden and other inequities of affordability in rates.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to classification of service for public utilities; amending ORS 757.230; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 757.230 is amended to read:

6 757.230. (1) The Public Utility Commission shall provide for a comprehensive classification of
7 service for each public utility, and such classification may take into account the quantity used, the
8 time when used, the purpose for which used, the existence of price competition or a service alter-
9 native, the services being provided, the conditions of service, **differential energy burdens on**
10 **low-income customers and other economic, social equity or environmental justice factors**
11 **that affect affordability for certain classes of utility customers**, and any other reasonable
12 consideration. Based on such considerations the commission may authorize classifications or sched-
13 ules of rates applicable to individual customers or groups of customers. The service classifications
14 and schedule forms shall be designed consistently with the requirements of ORS 469.010. Each public
15 utility is required to conform its schedules of rates to such classification. If the commission deter-
16 mines that a tariff filing under ORS 757.205 results in a rate classification primarily related to price
17 competition or a service alternative, the commission, at a minimum, shall consider the following:

18 (a) Whether the rate generates revenues at least sufficient to cover relevant short and long run
19 costs of the utility during the term of the rates;

20 (b) Whether the rate generates revenues sufficient to insure that just and reasonable rates are
21 established for remaining customers of the utility;

22 (c) For electric and natural gas utilities:

23 (A) Whether it is appropriate to incorporate interruption of service in the utility's rate agree-
24 ment with the customer; and

25 (B) Whether the rate agreement requires the utility to acquire new resources to serve the load;
26 and

27 (d) For electric utilities, for service to load not previously served, the effect of the rate on the
28 utility's average system cost through the residential exchange provision of the Pacific Northwest
29 Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980, Public Law 96-501, as amended.

30 (2) The commission may prescribe such changes in the form in which the schedules are issued
31 by any public utility as may be found to be expedient. The commission shall adopt rules which allow

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 any person who requests notice of tariff filings described under subsection (1) of this section to re-
2 ceive such notice.

3 **SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
4 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
5 **on its passage.**

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