SENATE AMENDMENTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS TO
B-ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2739

By COMMITTEE ON RULES

June 26

On page 1 of the printed B-engrossed bill, line 3, after “757.612” insert “and section 15, chapter ___, Oregon Laws 2021 (Enrolled House Bill 3141)”.

On page 2, after line 24, insert:

“SECTION 2a. Section 15, chapter ___, Oregon Laws 2021 (Enrolled House Bill 3141), is amended to read:

“Sec. 15. (1) An electric company, as defined in ORS 757.600, or Oregon Community Power shall collect funds for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance in an amount determined by the Public Utility Commission. The commission shall:

“(a) Establish the amount to be collected and rates to be charged by each electric company from its customers, including customers receiving electricity from other sources, such that the forecasted collection by all electric companies in a calendar year is at least $20 million.

“(b) Adjust the rates if forecasted collections or actual collections are less than $20 million in any calendar year but shall not otherwise adjust the rates once set.

“(c) Ensure that no customer pays more than $500 per month per customer site for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

“(2) Funds collected by an electric company or Oregon Community Power under this section [shall] must be:

“(a) Paid into the Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2);

“(b) Used by the Housing and Community Services Department solely for purposes related to low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance and for the Housing and Community Services Department’s cost of administering this section; and

“(c) Expended in the service area of the electric company or Oregon Community Power from which the funds are collected.

“(3) The Housing and Community Services Department shall determine the manner in which funds collected under this [subsection] section are allocated by the department to energy assistance program providers for the purpose of providing low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance. However, the department shall:

“(a) In consultation with electric companies, investigate and may implement alternative delivery models to effectively reduce service disconnections and related costs to customers and electric companies; and

“(b) Direct priority assistance to low-income customers who are in danger of having their electricity service disconnected.

“(4) The department shall maintain records and provide those records upon request to an electric company, Oregon Community Power and the Citizens’ Utility Board established under ORS
chapter 774 on a quarterly basis. Records maintained must include the numbers of low-income cus-
tomers served, the average amounts paid and the type of assistance provided. Electric companies
and Oregon Community Power shall, if requested, provide the department with aggregate data re-
lating to low-income customers served on a quarterly basis to support program development.

“(5) Interest on moneys deposited in the Housing and Community Services Department Low-
Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund established by ORS 456.587 (2) may be used to pro-
vide bill payment and crisis assistance to customers whose primary source of heat is not electricity.

“(6) Notwithstanding ORS 757.310, the commission may allow an electric company or Oregon
Community Power to provide reduced rates or other bill payment or crisis assistance or low-income
program assistance to a low-income household eligible for assistance under the federal Low Income
Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended and in effect on July 23, 1999.”.