

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Digest: Makes ODOE do outreach and provide certain support. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.2).

Requires the State Department of Energy to coordinate with other organizations, conduct outreach, establish a statewide navigation and support system and provide information in multiple languages, as part of the department's single resource for providing information and assistance related to available energy efficiency incentives and programs.

Requires the department to create a statewide clearinghouse for energy and energy efficiency incentive programs that uses a single, universal application form and application process. Requires the department to coordinate with and encourage other incentive and program providers to participate in the statewide clearinghouse. Requires entities to use best practices to maintain the confidentiality and security of information and data as required by law.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to energy; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 469.161.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 469.161 is amended to read:

5 469.161. (1) The State Department of Energy shall create a single resource
6 that provides to interested persons information, technical assistance and as-
7 sistance in identifying contractors and financing options, related to available
8 energy efficiency incentives and programs.

9 (2) The department shall:

10 (a) Coordinate information and data exchanges between federal and state
11 agencies, private and public utility providers, and energy efficiency incentive
12 or program providers as may be necessary to:

13 [(a)] **(A)** Create and maintain the single resource described under sub-

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 section (1) of this section; and

2 [(b)] **(B)** Support the implementation and reporting requirements of
3 available energy efficiency incentives and programs.

4 **(b) Coordinate with trade organizations, labor organizations and
5 industry professionals to understand current technologies and pro-
6 grams.**

7 **(c) Ensure that the single resource described under subsection (1)
8 of this section provides all information and assistance, including in-
9 formation and assistance that the single resource provides through an
10 Internet website, in the five most commonly spoken languages in this
11 state other than English.**

12 **(d) Conduct outreach across this state in a culturally accessible
13 manner using resources, as needed, for non-English speakers, and
14 prioritize outreach efforts toward households that have participated
15 or are on a wait list to participate in other programs that are prima-
16 rily focused on assisting households that are low income, energy bur-
17 dened, multifamily, living in rental housing or at risk of utility service
18 disconnection. The department shall incorporate targeted education
19 opportunities to provide information on:**

20 **(A) The resources and options that are available;**

21 **(B) How energy and energy efficiency technologies work;**

22 **(C) Financial costs and benefits; and**

23 **(D) Maintenance, upkeep and repair.**

24 **(e) Develop a preferred contractors list that a person may use to
25 connect with high quality, preapproved contractors.**

26 **(f) Establish a statewide navigation and support system, including
27 a call center that uses natural persons, to assist interested persons to
28 use the single resource described under subsection (1) of this section.**

29 (3) The department may contract with [*a nonprofit*] **nonprofit organiza-
30 tions** or other [*entity*] **entities** as may be necessary to carry out the pro-
31 visions of this section.

1 (4) Entities that exchange, compile or maintain information or data under
2 this section or that are involved in carrying out the provisions of this sec-
3 tion shall use best practices to maintain the confidentiality and security of
4 the information and data as required by federal and state law, including the
5 Oregon Consumer Information Protection Act and ORS 192.355.

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Energy shall create a**
7 **statewide clearinghouse for energy and energy efficiency incentive**
8 **programs that focus on:**

- 9 (a) **Increasing household energy efficiency;**
10 (b) **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and**
11 (c) **Reducing utility costs for retail utility customers.**

12 (2) **Under the statewide clearinghouse, the department shall, to the**
13 **greatest extent possible:**

14 (a) **Develop a single, universal application form and application**
15 **process that can be used to apply for all energy and energy efficiency**
16 **incentive programs;**

17 (b) **Qualify all residential units within a multifamily residential**
18 **building if one unit qualifies for an energy or energy efficiency incen-**
19 **tive program;**

20 (c) **Cross check eligibility between energy and energy efficiency in-**
21 **centive programs to ensure a person uses all available resources of-**
22 **fered by all energy and energy efficiency incentive programs;**

23 (d) **Maintain a list of households that have been verified as income**
24 **eligible for an energy or energy efficiency incentive program and use**
25 **the list to verify income eligibility for all other energy and energy ef-**
26 **iciency incentive programs that have income eligibility requirements;**

27 (e) **Support consumer energy audits and consultations that use a**
28 **whole-home approach to identify cost-effective home upgrades, and**
29 **match a home energy project with all available funding sources, in-**
30 **cluding utility bill financing and other lending products; and**

31 (f) **Establish a uniform list of qualified appliance models across**

1 **energy and energy efficiency incentive programs.**

2 **(3) The department shall coordinate with and encourage local gov-**
3 **ernments, federal and state agencies, private and public utility pro-**
4 **viders, and energy and energy efficiency incentive or program**
5 **providers to participate in the statewide clearinghouse.**

6 **(4) The department and entities that are involved in carrying out**
7 **the provisions of this section shall use best practices to maintain the**
8 **confidentiality and security of the information and data as required**
9 **by federal and state law, including the Oregon Consumer Information**
10 **Protection Act and ORS 192.355.**

11