A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to energy resilience; and prescribing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds that each county should plan for and develop energy resilience and be prepared, in the event of major grid disruption, to maintain basic services and functions.

(2) In order to carry out the provisions set forth in subsection (1) of this section, a county may:

(a) Develop and adopt an energy resilience plan; and

(b) Incorporate the energy resilience plan into the county’s applicable natural hazard mitigation plan.

(3) An energy resilience plan developed under this section must:

(a) Be based on and plan for short-term, medium-term and long-term power outages.

(b) Identify and map:

(A) Existing energy infrastructure located within the county, including transmission lines, distribution lines, substations and energy storage systems;

(B) Natural hazard risks; and

(C) Communities that experience social vulnerability.

(c) Identify potential locations for community resilience centers and communication zones that the public may use to access electricity services during a power outage;

(d) Inventory the energy consumption needs of critical public services facilities;

(e) Identify critical public services facilities where the development of alternate energy...
generation and storage resources will meet local energy resilience needs;
(f) Identify opportunities to coordinate and locate energy infrastructure development to
align with and support critical public services facilities;
(g) Identify time schedules, priorities and potential funding sources for developing energy
resilience; and
(h) Identify other actions and resources needed to implement the energy resilience plan.
(4)(a) To identify and map communities that experience social vulnerabilities under sub-
section (3)(b)(C) of this section, a county shall consult with representatives from local envi-
ronmental justice communities.
(b) A county shall use the locations of communities that experience social vulnerabilities
to prioritize the potential locations of community resilience centers under subsection (3)(c)
of this section.
(5) A public utility that is operating or serving customers within the boundaries of a
county that is developing an energy resilience plan shall use reasonable efforts to assist with
and comply with requests from the county for information regarding energy infrastructure
that is located or serving customers within the boundaries of the county, provided that the
information is exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.355.
(6) As used in this section, “critical public services facility” includes a facility related to
law enforcement, fire protection, health and medical services, sanitation services, fuel and
fueling, public works and engineering, public information and communications and emer-
gency response.
SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Energy shall establish a program for awarding
grants to counties to cover the costs of developing energy resilience plans that meet the
requirements under section 1 (3) of this 2023 Act.
(2) Under the program:
(a) A county shall use grant moneys to cover the costs of developing an energy resilience
plan that meets the requirements listed under section 1 (3) of this 2023 Act;
(b) A county may be awarded a total of no more than $50,000;
(c) Counties may combine and use together grant moneys that have been awarded to the
counties;
(d) A county may use grant award moneys to cover:
(A) The salaries and expenses of county employees for the time the employees work on
developing an energy resilience plan;
(B) The costs to hire or contract with a technical assistance provider; and
(C) Any other necessary costs as approved by the department; and
(e) The department may issue grant award moneys to a county or directly to a technical
assistance provider or providers hired or contracted by the county.
(3) The department shall establish the:
(a) Application process;
(b) Eligibility criteria for awarding grants;
(c) Process of awarding grants; and
(d) Requirements for reporting on the use of grant award moneys by grantees.
(4) No later than September 15, 2025, the department shall submit a report in the manner
provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to
energy. The report must, at a minimum:
(a) Identify the counties that have received grants under the program and describe the status of the counties’ energy resilience plans;

(b) Identify opportunities to incorporate county energy resilience plans into a state energy resilience plan and other planning efforts; and

(c) Make recommendations for improvements to the program and investments that would improve future planning efforts.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Department of Energy, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $2,000,000, to be used to provide grants under the program established under section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 5. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.