

Requested by Representative HARTMAN

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 3459**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, before the period insert “; amending
2 sections 3 and 4, chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021”.

3 Delete lines 4 through 25 and delete pages 2 and 3 and insert:

4 **“SECTION 1.** Section 3, chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021, is amended to
5 read:

6 **“Sec. 3.** (1) In addition to the funds collected pursuant to [*section 2 (1)*
7 *of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698 (1)** and subject to the limitation set forth in
8 [*section 2 (1)(c) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698 (1)(c)**, the Public Utility
9 Commission shall provide for, through rates charged to all customers of
10 electric companies, as defined in ORS 757.600, collection of [~~\$10~~] **\$5** million
11 per calendar year for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

12 **“(2)** Notwithstanding [*section 2 (1) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698 (1)**, the
13 rates established by the commission for low-income electric bill payment and
14 crisis assistance may not be less than the rates in effect on [*the effective date*
15 *of this 2021 Act*] **January 1, 2022.**

16 **“(3)** Notwithstanding [*section 2 (3) of this 2021 Act*] **ORS 757.698 (3)**, for
17 purposes of the additional amounts collected pursuant to this section, the
18 Housing and Community Services Department shall[:]

19 **“[(a)** *Ensure that the additional amounts collected respond to and are de-*
20 *livered to customers of electric companies who have lost income due to cir-*
21 *cumstances arising from the disease caused by the severe acute respiratory*

1 *syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2); and]*

2 “[*(b)*] design delivery of the additional amounts in alignment with existing
3 energy assistance programs but broaden income eligibility and benefit levels
4 such that:

5 “[*(A)*] **(a)** Income eligibility is expanded to households at or below 80
6 percent of area median income; **and**

7 “[*(B)*] *Standard household benefit levels may be increased to account for*
8 *utility arrearages directly related to employment, income or health effects of*
9 *SARS-CoV-2; and]*

10 “[*(C)*] **(b)** Persons already enrolled in or receiving state-administered,
11 low-income assistance from programs determined by the department, includ-
12 ing but not limited to through the federal Low Income Home Energy As-
13 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), are automatically eligible for
14 low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

15 “**SECTION 2.** Section 4, chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021, is amended to
16 read:

17 “**Sec. 4.** Section 3 [*of this 2021 Act*], **chapter 536, Oregon Laws 2021**, is
18 repealed on January 2, [2024] **2026**.”.

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