

HB 3792 -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Public Utility Commission to study consumer protection for utility ratepayers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 The amendment increases the amount required to be collected by electric companies from at least \$20 million to at least \$40 million to be placed into the Housing and Community Services Department Low Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund. The amendment requires the commission to reassess this figure every two years and may increase the amount. If the amount is increased by more than 2.5 percent the commission must report to the legislative assembly. The most (cap) that an electric company may collect from a single customer site is no less than \$500 per month, and can be higher, as determined by the commission. The commission may revise the \$500 (cap), if the commission reassesses and adjusts the total amount to be collected.

-4 The amendment increases the amount required to be collected by electric companies from at least \$20 million to at least \$40 million to be placed into the Housing and Community Services Department Low Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund. The amendment requires the commission to reassess this figure every two years and may increase the amount. If the amount is increased by more than 2.5 percent the commission must report to the legislative assembly within 30 days. The most (cap) that an electric company may collect from a single customer site is \$1,000 per month.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 456.587 (2) The Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Housing and Community Services Department Low-Income Electric Bill Payment Assistance Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Housing and Community Services Department for purposes described in ORS 757.698.

ORS 757.698 is about Low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance