

House Bill 3161

Sponsored by Representatives CATE, DIEHL (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Bans a public utility from raising rates if there are unresolved wildfire lawsuits for three or more years. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.6).

Prohibits a public utility from increasing the public utility's rates or schedules of rates if the public utility has, for a period of three or more years, outstanding or contingent liabilities arising out of wildfire-related litigation.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to public utility liabilities arising out of wildfire litigation; and prescribing an effective
3 date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 757.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

7 (a) **"Wildfire" means a wildfire as defined in ORS 477.089, that started on or after July**
8 **5, 2020, and before December 1, 2020, and:**

9 (A) **Is the subject of a state of emergency declared by the Governor;**

10 (B) **Occurs in an area subject to an executive order of the Governor invoking the Emer-**
11 **gency Conflagration Act under ORS 476.510 to 476.610; or**

12 (C) **Is a federally declared disaster, as defined in section 165 of the Internal Revenue**
13 **Code, whether located within Oregon or elsewhere.**

14 (b) **"Wildfire-related litigation" means litigation through which a plaintiff seeks compen-**
15 **sation for losses, expenses or damages found to be caused by a wildfire.**

16 (2) **A public utility may not increase or apply to the Public Utility Commission to increase**
17 **the public utility's rates or schedules of rates, if the public utility has, for a period of three**
18 **or more years, any outstanding or contingent liabilities arising out of wildfire-related liti-**
19 **gation.**

20 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2036.**

21 **SECTION 4. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025**
22 **regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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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.