

Senate Bill 89

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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: 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 that provides to in-
6 terested persons information, technical assistance and assistance in identifying contractors and fi-
7 nancing options, related to available energy efficiency incentives and programs.

8 (2) The department shall:

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

12 [(a)] (A) Create and maintain the single resource described under subsection (1) of this section;
13 and

14 [(b)] (B) Support the implementation and reporting requirements of available energy efficiency
15 incentives and programs.

16 (b) **Coordinate with trade organizations, labor organizations and industry professionals**
17 **to understand current technologies and programs.**

18 (c) **Ensure that the single resource described under subsection (1) of this section provides**
19 **all information and assistance, including information and assistance that the single resource**
20 **provides through an Internet website, in the five most commonly spoken languages in this**
21 **state other than English.**

22 (d) **Conduct outreach across this state in a culturally accessible manner using resources,**
23 **as needed, for non-English speakers, and prioritize outreach efforts toward households that**
24 **have participated or are on a wait list to participate in other programs that are primarily**
25 **focused on assisting households that are low income, energy burdened, multifamily, living in**

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 rental housing or at risk of utility service disconnection. The department shall incorporate
 2 targeted education opportunities to provide information on:

- 3 (A) The resources and options that are available;
- 4 (B) How energy and energy efficiency technologies work;
- 5 (C) Financial costs and benefits; and
- 6 (D) Maintenance, upkeep and repair.
- 7 (e) Develop a preferred contractors list that a person may use to connect with high
 8 quality, preapproved contractors.
- 9 (f) Establish a statewide navigation and support system, including a call center that uses
 10 natural persons, to assist interested persons to use the single resource described under
 11 subsection (1) of this section.

12 (3) The department may contract with [*a nonprofit*] **nonprofit organizations** or other [*entity*]
 13 **entities** as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

14 (4) Entities that exchange, compile or maintain information or data under this section or that
 15 are involved in carrying out the provisions of this section shall use best practices to maintain the
 16 confidentiality and security of the information and data as required by federal and state law, in-
 17 cluding the Oregon Consumer Information Protection Act and ORS 192.355.

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

- 20 (a) Increasing household energy efficiency;
- 21 (b) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- 22 (c) Reducing utility costs for retail utility customers.

23 (2) Under the statewide clearinghouse, the department shall, to the greatest extent pos-
 24 sible:

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

27 (b) Qualify all residential units within a multifamily residential building if one unit qual-
 28 ifies for an energy or energy efficiency incentive program;

29 (c) Cross check eligibility between energy and energy efficiency incentive programs to
 30 ensure a person uses all available resources offered by all energy and energy efficiency in-
 31 centive programs;

32 (d) Maintain a list of households that have been verified as income eligible for an energy
 33 or energy efficiency incentive program and use the list to verify income eligibility for all
 34 other energy and energy efficiency incentive programs that have income eligibility require-
 35 ments;

36 (e) Support consumer energy audits and consultations that use a whole-home approach
 37 to identify cost-effective home upgrades, and match a home energy project with all available
 38 funding sources, including utility bill financing and other lending products; and

39 (f) Establish a uniform list of qualified appliance models across energy and energy effi-
 40 ciency incentive programs.

41 (3) The department shall coordinate with and encourage local governments, federal and
 42 state agencies, private and public utility providers, and energy and energy efficiency incen-
 43 tive or program providers to participate in the statewide clearinghouse.

44 (4) The department and entities that are involved in carrying out the provisions of this
 45 section shall use best practices to maintain the confidentiality and security of the informa-

1 **tion and data as required by federal and state law, including the Oregon Consumer Infor-**
2 **mation Protection Act and ORS 192.355.**

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