

SB 417 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes new exemptions from carrier of last resort obligations for telecommunications utilities, cooperative corporations, and municipalities certified by the Public Utility Commission to provide local exchange telecommunications services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The carrier of last resort obligation is the requirement for local exchange telecommunications service providers certified by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to provide adequate and nondiscriminatory services to customers within allocated territories. Current statute allows the PUC to exempt a local telecommunications provider from the carrier of last resort obligation for a property with four or more single-family dwellings if the owner or developer meets specified conditions. The Oregon Universal Service Fund uses a surcharge on all retail telecommunication sales to support local telephone companies that provide basic telephone service in rural communities.

Senate Bill 417 requires the PUC to exempt a local telecommunications provider from the carrier of last resort obligation for a specified area in which the PUC finds that other providers that meet specified conditions are currently providing service or for any wire center for which the telecommunications provider does not receive support from the Universal Service Fund.