

# Senate Bill 443

Sponsored by Senator HAYDEN (Presession 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**.

Requires electric companies to reimburse qualified customers up to \$250 for purchase price of backup power source when power shutoff is likely to occur and power shutoff will likely last for eight or more hours.

Requires customer to demonstrate reliance on medically necessary device that uses power or onsite water pump as primary water source, and household income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines to qualify for reimbursement.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to backup power.

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

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

5 (a) **"Backup power source" includes a battery, generator or any other device or system**  
6 **that provides backup power.**

7 (b) **"Electric company" has the meaning given that term in ORS 757.600.**

8 (c) **"Medically necessary device" means:**

9 (A) **A device that is needed for the treatment of an illness, injury, condition, disease or**  
10 **its symptoms.**

11 (B) **Any secondary device that supports the treatment of an illness, injury, condition,**  
12 **disease or its symptoms, such as a refrigeration device for storing medication.**

13 (d) **"Power shutoff" means a proactive deenergizing of a portion of an electric company's**  
14 **electrical network, based on the forecasting of and measurement of extreme wildfire weather**  
15 **conditions.**

16 (2)(a) **When an electric company determines that a power shutoff is likely to occur and**  
17 **the power shutoff will likely last for a period of eight or more hours, the electric company**  
18 **shall make available to each customer that qualifies under subsection (3) of this section up**  
19 **to \$250 to reimburse the customer for the purchase price of a backup power source.**

20 (b) **An electric company may make the reimbursements under paragraph (a) of this**  
21 **subsection available directly to customers or through the nongovernmental entity that ad-**  
22 **ministers public purpose charge moneys under ORS 757.612 (3)(d).**

23 (3) **A customer qualifies for a reimbursement under this section if the customer submits**  
24 **an application to the electric company that demonstrates the customer, or a member of the**  
25 **customer's household:**

26 (a) **Relies on either:**

27 (A) **A medically necessary device that requires a power source to function; or**

28 (B) **An onsite water pump as the customer or household's primary water source;**

29 (b) **Resides in the area determined by the electric company to likely experience a power**

**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 **shutoff for a period of eight or more hours; and**

2 **(c) Has a household income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guide-**  
3 **lines.**

4 **(4)(a) A qualified customer may apply for and receive a reimbursement for each medically**  
5 **necessary device the customer or a member of the customer's household relies on to the**  
6 **extent that each medically necessary device requires its own backup power source.**

7 **(b) A customer may not apply for a reimbursement if the customer or a member of the**  
8 **customer's household has already applied for and received a reimbursement under this sec-**  
9 **tion unless the customer or a member of the customer's household newly relies on a med-**  
10 **ically necessary device since the date the customer last applied.**

11 **(5)(a) The Public Utility Commission shall prescribe the application form and information**  
12 **required to be included in the application that a customer shall use to apply for a re-**  
13 **imbursement under this section.**

14 **(b) At a minimum, the application must require a statement and signature from a health**  
15 **care provider that identifies the medically necessary device and explains how the device is**  
16 **medically necessary for the customer or a member of the customer's household, if a cus-**  
17 **tomer seeks to qualify under subsection (3)(a)(A) of this section for a reimbursement.**

18 **(6) The commission shall adopt rules for the implementation of this section.**  
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