



From the Offices of Representative Tom Andersen, Representative Mark Gamba, Representative David Gomberg, Representative Willy Chotzen

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House Votes to Protect Seniors, Low-Income Consumers From Shut-Offs Linked to Spiking Electricity Bills

The bill will double the amount of funds available for Community Action Agencies to help prevent disconnection of residential electricity services

SALEM, Ore. - Today, the House passed [HB 3792](#) which will double the existing size of Oregon's Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) from \$20 million to \$40 million. OEAP helps low-income Oregonians by providing financial assistance to prevent shut-offs of their residential electricity service.

Over the last four years, low-income Oregon ratepayers have faced dramatic spikes in their residential electricity bills. During 2024 there were nearly 58,000 residential shut-offs in Oregon among PGE and Pacific Power customers – [the highest number on record](#).

“Oregon should act now to help fixed income Oregonians from losing their electricity during cold spells in February or record high temperatures in July and August,” said **Rep. Tom Andersen (D - South Salem)**, chief sponsor of the bill introduced in February.

“Disconnections should not be a collection mechanism for our most at-risk Oregonians.”

“Our Oregon Energy Assistance Program has a proven track that we should all embrace. By doubling the amount available under this program, HB 3792 will likely cut the number of annual shut-offs in half. Many single income families with babies or young children face significant risks when their electricity is cut off,” said **Representative Mark Gamba, (D – Milwaukie)**, a co-sponsor of the bill.

Under HB 3792, the average residential ratepayer’s bill will increase approximately .70 cents per month and large industrial users will pay a maximum amount of \$1,000 per month, up from a

current cap of \$500 per month. In addition to doubling the existing OEAP capacity, these additional ratepayer charges for residential ratepayers will be indexed each year to help keep up with inflation.

“Summers are becoming hotter and winter cold spells longer. For people with certain medical needs, these shut-offs can even be life threatening,” said co-sponsor **Representative David Gomberg, (D – Otis)**.

“Many of my constituents live on streets lacking tree canopies and homes have reached record high temperatures during our summer heat-domes. We need to help seniors and people with disabilities who live on fixed incomes — too often our fellow Oregonians are having to choose between buying food and or paying extremely high utility bills,” said co-sponsor **Representative Willy Chotzen, (D-Portland)**.

HB 3792 is one of multiple consumer protection bills that are advancing through the Legislature this session. The bill now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

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