

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 1 - 0

**Yeas:** Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

**Nays:** Atkinson

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Beth Herzog, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/12, 3/26

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Housing and Community Services Department (Department) to establish a program for energy efficiency improvements in housing for people with low income and very low income. Authorizes the department disburse funds in the form of grants or loans to: ensure that energy efficiencies are incorporated into the construction of low-income housing; encourage on-site energy generation and promote the use of construction materials that protect the environment; focus on weatherization; and provide energy audits and energy efficiency education.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Opportunity for stimulus funds
- Proportion of income spent on energy in low-income households
- Reduction of Oregon's carbon footprint by increased energy efficiency in low-income homes

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes General Fund appropriation.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the 2007 American Community Survey, nearly one-third of Oregon's housing stock is occupied by households earning at or below 60 percent of the state median income. Over half of the people included in that percentage are paying 15 percent of their income on energy, versus 3.5 percent spent in most other households. The most vulnerable population is paying up to 44 percent of their household income for heating and other energy expenses. Energy analysts assume that if you are spending more than six percent of your income on utilities you are considered energy burdened. Proponents assert that for each dollar spent on low-income weatherization projects an additional \$1.11 is generated within the state.