

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) adopt policy to concentrate distribution of General Housing Account funds according to greatest need for low income and very low income housing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- OHCS’ two-year review of internal structures
- Cleanup/clarification of statutory language consistent with current administration of programs
- No known opposition

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current law requires Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to adopt rules to govern distributions of funds from the General Housing Account in accordance with the following: to “best meet critical housing needs and build organizational capacity of partners throughout this state,” while also requiring the “equitable distribution of resources over time based on objective measures of need, including the number and percentage of low and very low income households in an area.” (ORS 458.665(9).)

Senate Bill 244 removes the language directing OHCS to adopt a rule that requires “equitable distribution” taking into account the amount of “low and very low income households,” and instead, requires OHCS to adopt a policy of concentrating distributions in areas where the need for such housing is greatest.