

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

House Committee on Human Services and Housing

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: NONE****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Robyn Johnson, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 6/1, 6/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies and updates language for clarity regarding housing programs administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services department. Aligns eligibility criteria for Housing Development Guarantee Program and the General Housing Account Program. Directs State Housing Council adopt policy to concentrate distribution of funds according to greatest need for persons having low income and very low income.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Streamlining housing program eligibility
- Equitable distribution of housing resources

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment pending: Restores statute language on rulemaking regarding geographic distribution of funds.]

BACKGROUND:

Current law requires Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to govern distributions of funds from the 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)).

SB 244 aligns eligibility criteria for Housing Development Guarantee Program and the General Housing Account funding. It also requires the State Housing Council to focus funding efforts to meeting the needs of persons with low and very low incomes.