

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 3148 - 1**

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official***

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Date: 6/25/2015

**Measure Description:**

Creates Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account within Oregon Housing Fund.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Housing and Community Services Department

**Local Government Mandate:**

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**Analysis:**

The bill, as amended, establishes the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account and appropriates \$50,000 General Fund to the account. The Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD) is directed to issue grants from the account in the amount of \$5,000 to each household that suffers a loss of housing due to a wildfire. If the full payment of valid claims for assistance exceeds the available balance of the account, HCSD may make a pro rata reduction in grant amounts to increase the number of claimants who receive assistance. The department may expend funds from the account to pay administrative expenses. Any expended grant funds, and any administrative expenses incurred by HCSD in providing the grants, are considered monetary losses and are therefore eligible for recovery under ORS 477.089 when a person who causes a wildfire is deemed liable for expenses incurred in fighting the wildfire. Any moneys recovered by Housing for those losses shall be deposited to the account.

Administrative expenses to be expended from the fund are indeterminate and will depend on the number of applicants and volume of grants awarded. The program is anticipated to be supported with existing staff. Revenue estimates, as a result of liability payments, are indeterminate and have not been included in this fiscal impact analysis at this time.