

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood****Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:** 04/09/15**Action:** Do Pass And Refer To Tax Credits By Prior Reference.**Meeting Dates:** 03/05, 04/09**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Extends tax credit for qualified withdrawals from independent development accounts.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Companion measure, Senate Bill 50, and IDA program generally
- Success of program
- Importance of assistance to achieve financial independence
- Number of individuals on waiting lists
- Making program available to youth close to leaving care

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are designed to promote responsible personal financial management by encouraging low-income individuals to save and invest their own money, as part of a financial education program that offers participants the potential to receive matching funds. Oregon's IDA program was created in 1999 and has grown consistently over time. Eligible participants receive financial education, counseling, and training tailored to specific goals; once their goals have been met, they "graduate." Goals include things like: saving money to buy a house (32 percent), saving for education (37 percent), or saving to start a business (27 percent). Between 2008 and 2013, the number of participants grew from 916 to 4,210, and during that time, roughly \$13.1 million in matching funds have been provided to 2,524 graduates who saved roughly \$4.6 million. Graduates saved an average of \$1,849 over 23 months and benefited from an average match of \$5,205.

Oregon offers two tax credits related to IDA programs. The primary tax credit is the credit for account donations that fund the program (up for renewal via companion Senate Bill 50). The second tax credit is for qualified withdrawals from an IDA: account holders are allowed a tax credit of up to \$2,000 for withdrawals used to pay closing costs on the purchase of a primary residence, thereby potentially improving the opportunity for home ownership among low-income Oregonians. (*2016 Expiring Tax Credits*, Research Report No. 2-15, Legislative Revenue Office, February 2015.)

Senate Bill 51 extends the tax credit for withdrawals from independent development accounts, from 2016 to 2022.