

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/17/15

Action: Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 04/06, 04/17

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Buehler, Evans, Gallegos, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Parrish, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Prepared By: Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account within Oregon Housing Fund. Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services to administer grants to households at or below 75 percent federal poverty level for loss of housing due to wildfire. Directs continuous appropriation of funding for Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Total loss of or damage to housing due to wildfire
- Haul away and repair costs for damaged home
- Housing assistance for low-income residents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Wildfires, in the best cases, can cause damage to homes, and in the worst cases, can cause the total loss of a home for Oregonians living in rural areas. Individuals of little means may not be able to recover from the loss of a home and all its contents in a wildfire. They often live in manufactured or mobile homes and often do not have insurance, so they are not financially able to clear debris and reestablish a home on the property they own without assistance.

House bill 3148-A creates a Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account to provide \$5,000 grants to very low-income people experiencing a loss or significant damage to housing as a result of wildfires.