

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 04/01, 04/20

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to distribute funds from specified housing accounts with consideration to counties from which fees were collected. Directs OHCS to return funds to the county of origin if not committed or dispersed within two years.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Dispersal and commitment of funding for affordable housing
- Housing needs in rural communities
- Housing vacancy rates

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

A document recording fee was created in statute in 2009, of \$15 to record real property documents, in order to fund affordable housing. In 2013, legislation was passed that added an additional \$5 specifically to serve veterans. The fee is divided between the General Housing Account Program (76%), the Emergency Housing Account (10%) and the Home Ownership Assistance Program (14%). Since 2010, \$57,964,929 has been collected. Moneys are distributed by Oregon Housing and Community Services. On the whole, these funds are not the sole funding source for affordable housing projects. It is more often the case that these funds are “blended” with other public and private funding sources, including tax credits, to obtain sufficient and necessary funding for housing projects.

House Bill 2959-A requires Oregon Housing and Community Services to consider the county from which fees were collected when making distributions from the General Housing Account, and if funds are not disbursed within two years, the measure requires OHSC to return them to the county from which they were collected.