

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/06/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/27, 05/06

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Buehler, Gallegos, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Exc: 2 - Evans, Parrish

Prepared By: Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Secretary of State to investigate Community Housing Trust Account with coordination from Department of Human Services. Outlines focus of investigation. Requires development of investment strategy and report to legislature by February 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Treatment of patient-residents of Fairview Hospital
- Use and stewardship of Fairview Trust funding
- Housing for Oregonians with disabilities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Housing Trust Account (the Trust), commonly referred to as “the Fairview Trust” was funded by the sale of land following closure of the Fairview Training Center in 2000, where intellectually and developmentally disabled persons had been institutionalized since 1908. The majority of sale proceeds used to fund the Trust (95 percent) are required to be held in an interest-bearing account in perpetuity; the remaining 5 percent of the sale proceeds, plus interest on the corpus of the trust, are used to support community housing for adults and children with disabilities. Funds from the Trust have been used for construction and equipment and have provided assistance to over 1,000 Oregon households, with grants ranging from \$120 to \$5,000. During the recession, the legislature diverted funds from the Trust and other accounts, to cover budget shortfalls for basic services across the state.

Senate Bill 616-A requires the Secretary of State to audit the Trust, develop an investment strategy and report to the legislature by February 1, 2016.