

Enrolled
House Bill 3148

Sponsored by Representative MCLANE, Senator COURTNEY, Representative WHITSETT; Representatives BENTZ, ESQUIVEL, KRIEGER, SPRENGER, WHISNANT, Senators JOHNSON, WHITSETT

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to financial assistance to households of lower income following a wildfire; creating new provisions; amending ORS 458.620; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) **As used in this section:**

(a) **“Households of lower income” means persons or families residing in this state whose federal adjusted gross income for the tax year preceding the year in which a loss of housing due to wildfire occurs does not exceed 75 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.**

(b) **“Wildfire” has the meaning given that term in ORS 477.089.**

(2) **The Housing and Community Services Department shall administer the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account to assist households of lower income that suffer a loss of housing due to a wildfire. The department shall provide assistance from the account as grants in the amount of \$5,000 each.**

(3) **Notwithstanding the grant amount specified in subsection (2) of this section, if the full payment of valid claims for assistance under this section would exceed the available balance of the account, the department may make a pro rata reduction in grant amounts to increase the number of claimants who receive assistance.**

(4) **The department may expend funds from the account to pay administrative expenses incurred under this section.**

(5) **Any moneys that the department provides as assistance under this section, and any administrative expenses incurred by the department in providing assistance under this section, are objectively verifiable monetary losses for purposes of ORS 477.089. Any moneys recovered by the department for those losses shall be deposited to the account.**

SECTION 2. ORS 458.620 is amended to read:

458.620. (1) There is created, separate and distinct from the General Fund of the State Treasury, the Oregon Housing Fund, which consists of [*five*] **six** separate revolving accounts:

- (a) The Housing Development and Guarantee Account;
- (b) The Emergency Housing Account;
- (c) The Home Ownership Assistance Account;
- (d) The Farmworker Housing Development Account; [*and*]
- (e) The General Housing Account[.]; **and**
- (f) **The Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account.**

(2) Earnings on investment of moneys in:

- (a) The Housing Development and Guarantee Account accrue to that account.
- (b) The Emergency Housing Account accrue to that account.
- (c) The Home Ownership Assistance Account accrue to that account.
- (d) The Farmworker Housing Development Account accrue to that account.
- (e) The General Housing Account accrue to that account.

(f) The Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account accrue to that account.

(3)(a) Moneys in the Housing Development and Guarantee Account are **continuously** appropriated [*continuously*] to the Housing and Community Services Department to carry out the provisions of ORS 458.625 and 458.630.

(b) Moneys in the Emergency Housing Account are **continuously** appropriated [*continuously*] to the department to carry out the provisions of ORS 458.650.

(c) Moneys in the Home Ownership Assistance Account are **continuously** appropriated [*continuously*] to the department to carry out the provisions of ORS 458.655.

(d) Moneys in the Farmworker Housing Development Account are **continuously** appropriated [*continuously*] to the department to carry out the provisions of ORS 458.660.

(e) Moneys in the General Housing Account are **continuously** appropriated [*continuously*] to the department to carry out the provisions of ORS 456.515 to 456.725.

(f) Moneys in the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account are continuously appropriated to the department to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this 2015 Act.

(4) Individuals and corporations, both for profit or nonprofit, may make monetary contributions to be credited to:

- (a) The Housing Development and Guarantee Account; or
- (b) The General Housing Account.

SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2015 Act applies to a loss of housing that occurs on or after the effective date of this 2015 Act.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$50,000, for the purpose of deposit into the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account.

SECTION 5. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect July 1, 2015.

Passed by House July 1, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate July 2, 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2015

Approved:

.....M,....., 2015

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State