

SB 434 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

Prepared By: C Ross, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Task Force on Wildfire Damage Financial Relief staffed by Oregon Housing and Community Services to develop recommendations concerning income thresholds to qualify for assistance. Specifies composition and formalities. Requires report to the Legislature by September 15, 2019. Sunsets December 31, 2019. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

Fiscal impact issued

No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account was created by the Legislature in 2015 to provide grants of up to \$5000 each, to low-income households damaged or destroyed by wildfire to the point of being uninhabitable. Households applying for the grant must have incomes at or below 75 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to receive financial assistance, making qualification extremely difficult.

Senate Bill 434A creates a task force to study the needs of households damaged by wildfires in recent years, and develop recommendations to increase the maximum income level to qualify for assistance. The measure requires a report to the Legislature by September 15, 2019.

The measure passed out of the Senate Human Services Committee 4 - 0 - 1.