

HB 3304 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue
Meeting Dates: 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits a taxpayer who files an Oregon income tax to designate a contribution of all or a portion of tax refund to the Emergency Housing Account to be used for housing services to low or very low income persons. Applies to tax years beginning January 1, 2017. Creates effective date of 91 days after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHSC) reports (2016) that for housing to be considered affordable, a household should pay no more than one third of income towards rent. One in two Oregon households pays more than one third of their income towards rent and one in four pays more than half of their income towards rent. Further, Oregon has a gap of 103,000 affordable and available rental units.

The Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) program is for persons with household income no greater than 80 percent of area median income that are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. EHA funds pay for street outreach, emergency and transitional shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, supportive in-home services, data collection and community capacity building designed to enhance or sustain homeless services. OHSC provides housing stabilization resources to the community action network to coordinate the use of funds.