

SB 434 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Task Force on Wildfire Damage Financial Relief. Requires Task Force to develop recommendations regarding qualifications for financial assistance from Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account. Requires Task Force to report findings and recommendations to interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019. Sunsets task force December 31, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Operation of existing Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account
- Purpose of proposed study
- Effect of recent wildfire on landowners and renters

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires Governor to appoint two landowners and one nonowner tenant who experienced loss from recent devastating wildfire to task force. Removes emergency and requires measure to take effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

BACKGROUND:

The Wildfire Damage Relief Account was created by the Legislature in 2015 to provide grants to low-income people whose homes were 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. Approved grants cannot exceed \$5000 per effected household.

Senate Bill 434 creates a Task Force on Wildfire Damage Financial Relief to study post-fire needs of households suffering loss from wildfire in recent fire years. It requires the Task Force to develop recommendations regarding increasing the maximum household income level for financial assistance from the Wildfire Damage Relief Account. The measure requires the Task Force to report findings and recommendations to an interim human services committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019.