

SB 434 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 02/22/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to General Government and Accountability then to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Exc: 1 - Dembrow

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Task Force on Wildfire Damage Financial Relief to develop recommendations regarding qualifications for financial assistance from Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019. Sunsets December 31, 2019. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies membership of task force. Replaces emergency clause with effective date 91st day after *sine die*.

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 434 A creates a Task Force on Wildfire Damage Financial Relief to study the post-fire needs of households suffering loss from wildfires in recent years, and develop recommendations to increase the maximum household income level to qualify for financial assistance. The measure requires the Task Force to report findings and recommendations to the legislature by September 15, 2019.