

**HB 2961 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Human Services and Housing**

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**Action Date:** 03/30/17

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Gorsek, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Noble, Olson, Piluso, Sanchez, Stark

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program (Program) within Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department to provide grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to provide financial assistance to eligible low-income households for repair and rehabilitation of their residences. Specifies eligibility and agreement requirements for nonprofit organizations to receive grants from OHCS. Requires grant program recipients to report to OHCS regarding the status and use of grant funds. Establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program Fund (Fund) and appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to Fund. Both Program and Fund become operative January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Cost savings associated with repair and rehabilitation of homes
- Difficulties building affordable housing
- Partnerships with nonprofits and local community partners for repair and rehabilitation of homes

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department offers a weatherization program to low-income families needing to make home health and safety improvements, heating system repairs, insulation improvements, window and door repair and energy education. This program helps low-income Oregonians make necessary repairs within their homes to improve energy efficiency.

House Bill 2961 establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program (Program) within OHCS. The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to provide financial assistance to eligible low-income households for repair and rehabilitation of their residences. The measure specifies eligibility and agreement requirements for nonprofit organizations to receive grants from OHCS. Nonprofits receiving grants are required to report to OHCS regarding the status and use of grant funds including the number of households provided financial assistance, administrative expenses, and aggregated demographic data.

House Bill 2961 establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program Fund (Fund) and continuously appropriates money to fund the Program at OHCS. The measure appropriates \$10,000,000 to establish the Fund.