

HB 2742 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/06/17

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Noble, Olson, Piluso, Sanchez, Stark

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes the household income limitation for receipt of financial assistance from the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account. Increases the maximum amount of grant money issued to a household from the account from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Allows Housing and Community Services Department to reduce or refuse assistance from Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account if the household has received insurance proceeds or other compensation for all or part of the loss of housing. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account
- Difficulties obtaining insurance in wildfire-prone areas
- Rebuilding and repairing after a wildfire

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows Housing and Community Services Department to reduce or refuse assistance from Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account if the household has received insurance proceeds or other compensation for all or part of the loss of housing.

BACKGROUND:

The Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account Program was established by legislation in 2015. This program assists lower income households that suffer a loss of housing due to wildfire. Households accessing the funds must have an annual income at or less than 75 percent of the federal poverty level and the home must be the household's primary residence. If approved, households may receive a maximum of \$5,000 in grants to repair or replace damage caused by a wildfire.

House Bill 2742 A changes the household income limitation for receipt of financial assistance from the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The maximum amount of grant money issued to a household from the account is increased to \$7,000. The measure also allows Housing and Community Services Department to reduce or refuse assistance from Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account if the household has received insurance proceeds or other compensation for all or part of the loss of housing.