

HB 2802 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program in Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to provide grants to support homeownership for low income households to repair and rehabilitate single family residences - manufactured homes, residential trailers, mobile home, or condominiums. Defines repair and rehabilitation. Specifies grant eligibility criteria for eligible entities. Authorizes OHCS through rulemaking to define the types of repair and rehabilitation eligible for grant funds and establish grant recipient reporting requirements. Authorizes OHCS to conduct audits and investigations of grant recipients. Limits financial assistance to a maximum of \$25,000 per low income household. Requires 50 percent of the fund by administered by community action agency network. Establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program Fund in the State Treasury; specifies types of fund to be appropriated to the fund. Establishes the Healthy Homes Program in OHCS to address home health hazards and authorizes OHCS to make no-interest loans to eligible entities. Appropriates \$15 million from the General Fund to the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation and Health Homes Programs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The National Center for Healthy Housing defines the seven principles of healthy housing as clean, dry, ventilated, safe, well-maintained, free of pests, and free of contaminants. Homes, particularly if poorly maintained, can post a number of health concerns ranging from lead-based paint, radon, carbon monoxide poisoning, mold from water leaks or excess moisture resulting in adverse health (e.g., allergies or asthma), and result in unintentional household injuries. Identifying and eliminating home health hazards can help individuals and families maintain their health and wellness. Examples are weatherization, removal of lead-based paint, installation of smoke and radon detectors, or uncluttering stairways and walkways.

The community action agency (CCA) network, established initially under the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, delivers federal antipoverty programs in Oregon, including the Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Energy Assistance Program, State Department of Energy Weatherization Program and other programs. Funds to support programs administered by community action agencies are distributed by the Housing and Community Services Department. Services offered by CCAs can include housing rehabilitation, weatherization, affordable housing development, self-sufficiency programs for seniors, among a number of other services intended to reduce poverty.

House Bill 2802 establishes a grant program to assist low-income individuals address unsafe housing conditions by repairing and rehabilitating their residence.