

SB 1532 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes pilot program within Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to award grants to eligible entities that offer financial assistance to low-income households for certain residential repairs. Appropriates \$4 million General Fund dollars for administration and specified distribution. Authorizes corresponding rulemaking. Requires OHCS to report to the Legislature by September 15, 2021. Sunsets January 2, 2022. Takes effect July 1, 2020.

Fiscal Impact: No statement yet issued.

Revenue Impact: No statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Replaces establishment of "pilot" program with direction that OHCS award grants for said purpose (rehabilitation and repair of eligible low-income primary residences - OHCS has existing infrastructure). Requires grant recipients to report to OHCS by August 15, 2021, and changes OHCS' report due date to the Legislature from September to November 15, 2021. Provides for discretion, rather than requiring grants funds to supplement weatherization programs. Adjusts definitions, fine-tunes other provisions, and adds emergency clause.

[-2 amendment] Same as -1 with further fine-tuning to ensure funds are directed to primary residences and may be used by recipients to cover costs of administration.

BACKGROUND:

A number of potential health risks can be found in poorly maintained homes, such as exposure to lead-based paint, radon, carbon monoxide, and mold that develops from water leaks or excess moisture. Identifying and eliminating home health hazards through proper weatherization, removal of contaminants, installation of smoke and radon detectors, and basic decluttering of stairways and walkways, for example, can help individuals and families maintain health and wellness, as well as help maintain or improve a home's value.

House Bill 1532 establishes a pilot program within OHCS to assist low-income households with unsafe conditions in the home.