

SB 1532 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Action Date: 02/04/20

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

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Boles, Fagan, Golden, Wagner

Exc: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to award grants to eligible entities that offer financial assistance to low-income households for repair and rehabilitation of a primary residence. Appropriates \$4,000,000 General Fund dollars to OHCS. Directs OHCS to distribute \$2,000,000 to community action agencies with the advice of the Community Action Partnership of Oregon. Requires grant recipients to report to OHCS by August 15, 2021. Requires OHCS to report to the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2021. Sunsets January 2, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Range and types of repairs needed
- Repairs becoming critical: roofs, plumbing, electrical
- Repairs that are necessary predicate to weatherization
- Corresponding benefits of energy efficiency
- Maximizing use of funds and maximizing benefits obtained

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes references to "pilot program." Requires grant recipients to report to OHCS by August 15, 2021, and changes OHCS report due date to the Legislative Assembly 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 replaces operative date with emergency clause.

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. Some programs make funds available for eligible homes to be properly weatherized to reduce energy consumption and costs, but often other predicate repairs must first be made.

House Bill 1532-A directs Oregon Housing and Community Services to award grants to assist eligible low-income households with repair and rehabilitation of their primary residence until January 2, 2022, and to report to the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2021.