

HB 2079 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Tax Expenditures

Prepared By: Chris Allanach, Legislative Revenue Officer

Meeting Dates: 4/28, 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Legislative Revenue Officer to study the creation of a tax credit and direct grant program to preserve historic property in Oregon. Requires the report be submitted by September 15, 2024 to the interim committees on revenue. Requires the report to include recommendations for potential legislation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review of previous workgroup
- Definition of history, including structures and culture
- Current historic districts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Following the 2021 legislative session, at the direction of House Revenue Chair Nathanson, Representatives Levy and Valderrama led a workgroup of historic property stakeholders to explore the potential for extending, expanding, and creating economic incentives to increase the preservation of historic property in Oregon. The workgroup met regularly in 2021 from early August through November and a few times in 2022. The participants explored such concepts as the definition of history, the value and importance of preserving history, and the obstacles to such preservation. In total, roughly 30 individuals participated at some point during the process. Participating organizations included Albina Vision, Portland Housing Bureau, Geiser Grand Hotel, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon State Association of County Assessors, the Department of Revenue, League of Oregon Cities, City of Portland, and several local historians.

Ultimately, the group moved toward modifying the existing property tax incentive and augmenting it with an income tax incentive and a direct grant program. This three-pronged approach is intended to address different aspects of historic property preservation. The group focused on extending the property tax incentive in the February 2022 session. During the 2022 meetings (following the legislative session) participants worked to refine the details of a tax credit and grant program.

The materials covered by the workgroup are available on-line through the House (2021-22) Interim Committee on Revenue homepage using the “Committee & Workgroup Materials” link; also available by clicking [here](#). The materials available here include meeting agendas, notes, and presentations. Under the Reports window, various publications that were shared with the workgroup are also available.