

Background

The senior and disabled citizens property tax deferral program uses an Other Funds account for the Department of Revenue to pay, to counties, property taxes on behalf of qualified program participants. When the program participant dies, sells, or moves, their estate repays the fund, with interest. House Bill 3461 would use the Senior Property Tax Deferral Revolving Account to assist qualified wildfire victims. The Department of Revenue has two suggestions to ensure we can administer the bill according to its intent.

Administrative Topics

First, Section 1(4)(a) likely violates the Full Text Provision in Oregon Constitution, Article IV, section 22 (“No act shall ever be revised, or amended by mere reference to its title, but the act revised, or section amended shall be set forth, and published at full length.”). Section 1(4)(a) states that all the identified statutes apply to an entirely new tax deferral program without setting those statutes out in full to show how they are being amended to cover the new program.

Second, it would be helpful to confirm whether the intent of the bill is for deferred taxes to become due, with interest, on July 1, 2027. It could create confusion for taxpayers and increased call volume for DOR and county assessors when those taxpayers are suddenly faced with a noticeably larger property tax debt than they might have otherwise had.

Agency Contact

Seiji T. Shiratori, Policy Director, Property Tax Division, Oregon Department of Revenue, email: seiji.shiratori@dor.oregon.gov, phone: 503-877-7932