

SB 1529 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to distribute air conditioners and air filters to eligible distribution entities that provide devices to specified eligible individuals during an emergency or anticipated emergency. The measure requires the administrator of the program to reimburse the costs of identifying eligible Oregonians, delivering devices, providing necessary utility support, and ensuring devices are installed and working properly. The measure modifies the Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Program to increase the maximum reimbursement landlords can receive for damage caused by tenants from no more than \$5,000 per tenancy to a maximum amount established by the Housing and Community Services Department.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Relationship of this measure to appropriations in SB 1530 (2024),

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

SB 1536 (2023) directed OHA to create a program to acquire a supply air conditioners and air filters, and to distribute these devices to a variety of eligible distribution entities. The agency received a one-time \$5 million appropriation for the program for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

Through the Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Program, HCSD provides financial assistance to landlords to cover costs associated with unpaid rent and damages caused by tenants participating in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). The maximum reimbursement is currently set in statute at \$5,000.