

SB 1529 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Action Date: 02/13/24

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

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Anderson, Jama, Knopp, Patterson, Sollman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to distribute specified cooling devices in anticipation of emergencies, and it allows Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to change the maximum reimbursement amount of the Housing Choice Guarantee Landlord Program through rule.

Detailed Summary:

Allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to acquire and distribute specified cooling devices to eligible recipients in anticipation of emergencies as part of the Air Conditioner and Air Filter Deployment Program; requires OHA to provide reimbursement to eligible distribution entities; and specifies that individuals in the Cover All People program established in ORS 414.231 are eligible recipients of these devices.

Allows Oregon Housing and Community Services to establish in rule a maximum reimbursement amount to landlords for the Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Program larger than that specified in statute.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill [1536](#) (2022) appropriated \$5 million to establish the Air Conditioner and Air Filter Deployment Program, administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This program allows OHA to distribute, either on its own or through a third party, cooling devices to eligible recipients during an emergency. Key findings from the December 2023 [Oregon Cooling Needs Study](#) by the Oregon Department of Energy state that 58 percent of survey respondents have inadequate cooling equipment, with roughly 20 percent falling into an “immediate” need category. The study cites risk to human health, with record temperatures set during the June 2021 heat dome event, and long-term increases in heat due to climate change.

Through the Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Program, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) 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). House Bill [3417](#) (2023) expanded eligibility for reimbursement under the Program. The maximum reimbursement is currently set in statute at \$5,000 (ORS 456.378).