HB 3304   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date:	04/06/17
Action:	Do pass and be referred to Revenue by prior reference
Vote:	6-0-3-0
Yeas:	6 - Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Olson, Sanchez, Stark
Exc:	3 - Gorsek, Noble, Piluso
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits a taxpayer who files an Oregon income tax return to designate a contribution of all or a portion of tax refund to the Emergency Housing Account to be used for housing services to low or very low income persons. Applies to tax years beginning January 1, 2017. Effective 91 days following sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
* Tax refund designation to Emergency Housing Assistance
* Contents of the measure
* Use of Emergency Housing Assistance

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department reports that for housing to be considered affordable, a household should pay no more than one-third of their income towards rent. One in two Oregon households pays more than one-third of their income towards rent and one in four pays more than half of their income towards rent.

The Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) program is for persons with household income no greater than 80 percent of area median income that are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. EHA funds pay for street outreach, emergency and transitional shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, supportive in-home services, data collection and community capacity building designed to enhance or sustain homeless services. OHCS provides housing stabilization resources to the community action network to coordinate the use of funds.

House Bill 3304 permits a taxpayer who files an Oregon income tax return to designate a full or partial contribution of their tax refund to the Emergency Housing Account to be used for housing services to low or very low income persons beginning tax years January 1, 2017.