

SB 954 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Housing and Community Services Department to study and recommend state laws concerning mold in residential properties for sale or rent, in consultation with the Oregon Real Estate Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Authority. Requires report to the Legislature by September 15, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Residential molds and mold spores are described by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as organisms that thrive in damp places in a person's home, including carpets and furnishings. Mold smells musty and stains surfaces, and can be encouraged by condensation, spills and water leaks. Mold spores are tiny particles in the air that can sometimes cause health problems, particularly among individuals who have respiratory or immune system difficulties. Exposure to large amounts of some molds can be quite dangerous.

Senate Bill 954 requires the Housing and Community Services Department, in cooperation with the Oregon Real Estate Agency and the Department of Environmental Quality, to study and recommend state laws concerning mold in residential properties for sale or rent and report to the Legislature by September 15, 2021.