

HB 2802 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/11, 3/20, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Homeownership Repair and Rehabilitation Program to be administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to provide grants to low-income households to repair and rehabilitate single family dwellings, as specified. Authorizes OHCS to make rules to define what types of repair and rehabilitation are eligible for grant funds and to establish recipient reporting requirements. Authorizes OHCS to audit and investigate recipients. Requires 50 percent of grants be distributed by network of Community Action Agencies. Establishes Healthy Homes Program to be administered by OHCS to address home health hazards and authorizes OHCS to make no-interest loans to eligible entities. Appropriates \$15 million General Fund dollars to OHCS for both programs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Housing instability and supporting home ownership
- Supporting healthy environments for low-income households
- Provisions of -1 amendment (adopted March 20, 2019)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Lifts limit on amount of grant award per eligible recipient. Lifts limits on administrative costs. Removes certain grant reporting requirements. Refines definitions.

BACKGROUND:

The National Center for Healthy Housing identifies seven principles of healthy housing: clean, dry, ventilated, safe, well-maintained, free of pests, and free of contaminants. Homes, particularly if poorly maintained, raise a number of health concerns ranging from lead-based paint, radon, and carbon monoxide poisoning, to mold from water leaks or excess moisture. Unintentional exposure and household injuries can result. Identifying and eliminating home health hazards can help individuals and families maintain health and wellness. Examples include proper weatherization, removal of lead-based paint, installation of smoke and radon detectors, and decluttering stairways and walkways.

The Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), a network Community Action Agencies (CCAs) initially established under the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, delivers federal antipoverty programs in Oregon, including the Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Energy Assistance Program, State Department of Energy Weatherization Program and other. Funds to support programs administered by CCAs are distributed by Oregon Housing and Community Services.

House Bill 2802-A establishes a grant program to assist low-income households with unsafe housing conditions.

Subsequent referral to Joint Ways and Means