

## HB 2055 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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**Action Date:** 03/18/19

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

**Vote:** 8-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Mitchell, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

**Exc:** 1 - Noble

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 3/18

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Greater Oregon Housing Accelerator Program in the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). Allows OHCS to provide grants or loans to support workforce housing in development-constrained areas. Specifies eligible proposals. Authorizes OHCS to provide technical assistance for developing proposals and to adopt rules. Defines “development constrained area,” “eligible recipient,” and “workforce housing.”

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Multiple tools needed to help address housing crisis
- Need for greater coordination between private and public sectors
- Lack of housing near employees’ workplaces
- Governor’s 2014 workforce housing pilot project (5 pilots); \$1.5 million budget
- Applicants that were turned down due to lack of funding
- Distinct challenges faced by small towns and rural communities including lack of available credit and financing
- Dedicating resources to encourage collaborative partnerships between employers, local governments, and housing developers

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Workforce housing is a subset of affordable housing, affordable to workers and close to their jobs. House Bill 2055 originates from the Workforce Housing Initiative being implemented by the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS).

HB 2055-A establishes the Greater Oregon Housing Accelerator Program within OHCS to support workforce housing development in targeted areas.