

HB 2008 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing

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Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides tax exemption for property owned or purchased by a religious organization that is used solely to provide affordable housing to individuals with a combined household income at or below 60 percent of area median income. Limits local governments from imposing conditions of approval or zoning restrictions on an application by a religious organization to develop affordable housing on its property, unless the lot or parcel is zoned for industrial use. Applies to property tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2021. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under Oregon law, religious organizations are exempt from property taxation for properties owned and used as administration, education, literary, benevolent, charitable, entertainment, and recreational purposes. The exemption also applies to parking lots and cemeteries owned by religious organizations.

To address affordable housing supply needs, Senate Bill 1051 (2017) allowed the development of affordable housing on land owned by religious organizations, if the development was located inside an urban growth boundary (UGB), and complied with local land use regulations.

House Bill 2008 provides a property tax exemption for religious organizations that provide affordable housing on their property to low-income individuals. It limits local governments from imposing certain zoning restrictions or conditions of approval on an application by a religious organization.