

HB 2842 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing

Action Date: 04/06/21

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

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Campos, Fahey, Marsh, Meek, Morgan, Neron, Weber, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Healthy Homes Program: Establishes Healthy Homes Program within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Clarifies purpose of program to provide grants to eligible entities which provide financial assistance to low income households and communities impacted by environmental justice factors as defined by this Act, and to landlords for the repair and rehabilitation of residential dwelling units. Defines eligible entity as a local government, local housing authority, nonprofit organization, federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon, coordinated care organization, community action agency, or program administered by an electric company or natural gas utility. Allows OHA to adopt standards and requirements for activities funded by the program. Prohibits grant program recipients from using more than 15 percent of grant funds for administrative expenses. Requires each Healthy Homes Program grant recipient to submit report on June 30 of each year describing: allocation of funds for direct financial assistance to low income households or landlords for home repair and rehabilitation; data concerning demographic information of households receiving financial assistance; and estimates of energy and health cost savings achieved by assistance grants. Allows OHA to engage with public higher education institutions or nonprofit organizations in developing and establishing methods for evaluating and mitigating health hazards in housing.

Healthy Homes Repair Fund: Establishes the Healthy Homes Repair Fund in the State Treasury to cover grant funding in addition to the costs of OHA in administering the Healthy Homes Program. Appropriates, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, \$20 million in General Fund dollars to OHA for the Healthy Homes Repair Fund.

Interagency Task Force: Establishes the Interagency Task Force on Healthy Homes, to be staffed by OHA. Specifies membership, governance, and charge of task force related to identifying and addressing the health and safety of homes. Requires task force to submit a report to interim legislative committees related to housing, the Governor, and the Environmental Justice Task Force no later than September 15, 2022. Sunsets Interagency Task Force January 2, 2023. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Energy costs and health impacts on people in older homes in need of repair or weatherization
- Availability and cost of installing smoke filtration system
- Definition of "environmental justice factors" intends to name conditions and life circumstances as opposed to defining specific communities
- Concern regarding multiple agency participation on Task Force
- Oregon Health Authority relationship with Coordinated Care Organizations
- Ensuring equal distribution of grant moneys between urban and rural areas

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies and defines eligible entities that may participate in Healthy Homes grant program. Expands definition of home repair and rehabilitation to include accessibility, visitability, fire resistance, and seismic resistance. Expands

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definition of residence to include a unit within multifamily housing. Replaces "environmental justice communities" with "environmental justice factor" for the purposes of determining grant-eligible entities. Allows Oregon Health Authority to adopt standards and requirements for activities funded by the program. Prohibits grant program recipients from using more than 15 percent of grant funds for administrative expenses. Specifies state agencies and other entities represented on Interagency Task Force. Appropriates, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, \$20 million in General Fund dollars to OHA for the Healthy Homes Repair Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Fifty-four percent of Oregonians live in housing built before 1978. Housing that has not been retrofitted for energy efficiency is expensive to heat or outfit with proper filtration, and, according to the Oregon Health Authority, has been correlated with poor health outcomes for residents, including asthma and other respiratory issues. Oregon Housing and Community Services reports in its Statewide Housing Plan that low-income people and people of color in Oregon are disproportionately burdened by housing costs, spending up to 50 percent of income on housing costs compared to 17 percent of all households in the state.

House Bill 2842 A establishes the Healthy Homes Program within the Oregon Health Authority, for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible entities which provide financial assistance to low income households and communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution or other hazards, and to landlords for the repair and rehabilitation of residential dwelling units. It establishes the Healthy Homes Repair Fund to provide grants and cover administrative costs, and establishes the Interagency Task Force on Healthy Homes to propose and evaluate solutions to address health hazards in housing.