

HB 3215 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Disaster Housing Recovery Fund within State Treasury, and continuously appropriates funds to Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) for specified purposes. Allows OHCS to allocate account funds to provide loans, grants, or other forms of assistance to repair, replace, rebuild, or address infrastructure needs for residential units damaged or destroyed during a disaster, or support residents of those units with assistance relating to housing or recovery associated with housing loss. Confirms repeal of Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Indeterminate fiscal impact, subreferral to Joint Ways and Means by prior reference

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Land acquisition as aspect of recovery for residents rebuilding after disaster
- Availability of continuous funding for wildfire or other disaster recovery

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies definition of “disaster” as declared disaster or emergency that resulted in damage of residential units.

BACKGROUND:

In the Second Special Session in August 2020, the legislative assembly enacted House Bill 4304, which repealed the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account and reverted approximately \$500,000 to the General Fund for general government purposes. The September 7, 2020 wildfires occurred before House Bill 4304 was signed into law. Governor Brown line-item vetoed the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account removal and funds redirection from the bill, in order to restore the funds for wildfire recovery purposes. In September 2020, the Emergency board allocated \$10 M to the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Program to support Oregonians impacted by the recent wildfires.

House Bill 3215 establishes the Disaster Housing Recovery Fund within the State Treasury and allows Oregon Housing and Community Services to allocate funds for loans, grants or other assistance related to housing loss due to a disaster.