

HB 3215 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/5, 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Disaster Housing Recovery Fund within State Treasury, and continuously appropriates funds to Oregon 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. Expands, for purposes of Act, definition of "disaster" as declared disaster or emergency that resulted in the loss or damage of residential units. Confirms repeal of Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Measures creating new funds are often referred to Ways and Means.
- The creation of the fund will allow for future deposits of state and federal funds, and expenditures by the agency to provide assistance in the event of disasters.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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In the Second Special Session in August 2020, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 4304, which repealed the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account and reverted approximately \$500,000 to the General Fund for general government purposes.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 Oregon 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 million to the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Program to support Oregonians impacted by recent wildfires.

House Bill 3215 A 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.