

# House Bill 3215

Sponsored by Representative MARSH (at the request of Housing and Community Services Department)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes Housing and Community Services Department to support replacement, reconstruction or rehabilitation of residential units damaged or destroyed by disaster and to support recovery of residents of such housing. Establishes Disaster Housing Recovery Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for specified purposes.

Confirms abolition of Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to residential units destroyed by disasters; creating new provisions; amending ORS 456.559;  
3 repealing ORS 458.667; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2023 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**  
6 **chapter 458.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

8 (a) **"Disaster" means a declared disaster or emergency as defined in ORS 401.685.**

9 (b) **"Residential units" includes recreational vehicles, manufactured dwellings, prefabri-**  
10 **cated structures, small homes and dwelling units of any type.**

11 (2) **The Housing and Community Services Department may:**

12 (a) **Provide loans, grants or other forms of assistance to repair, replace, rebuild or ad-**  
13 **dress the infrastructure needs for residential units damaged or destroyed during a disaster.**

14 (b) **Support residents of residential units that were damaged or destroyed during a dis-**  
15 **aster, including by providing rental assistance, down payment assistance, housing navigation**  
16 **assistance, intermediate housing and assistance relating to housing or recovery associated**  
17 **with housing loss.**

18 (c) **Support the acquisition of land or property for housing for communities impacted by**  
19 **disaster.**

20 (3) **The department may contract with entities to take action under this section, includ-**  
21 **ing directly entering into construction contracts with general contractors or others and ad-**  
22 **ministering loans or grants to construct or repair damaged or destroyed residential units.**

23 **SECTION 3. (1) The Disaster Housing Recovery Fund is established in the State Treas-**  
24 **ury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Disaster Housing**  
25 **Recovery Fund shall be credited to the fund.**

26 (2) **The fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the**  
27 **fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.**

28 (3) **Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Housing and Community**  
29 **Services Department to carry out the purposes of section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **SECTION 4.** ORS 456.559 is amended to read:

2       456.559. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall:

3       (a) Maintain current housing data and information concerning available programs, status of  
4 funding, programs planned or undertaken which might conflict with, overlap, duplicate or supersede  
5 other planned or existing programs and call these to the attention of appropriate state agencies,  
6 governmental bodies and public or private housing sponsors.

7       (b) Maintain current data from local, state and federal sources concerning publicly supported  
8 housing as that term is defined in ORS 456.250, the status of existing affordability restrictions as  
9 that term is defined in ORS 456.250 and rental assistance contracts at publicly supported housing.

10       (c) Provide to appropriate state agencies, governmental bodies and public or private housing  
11 sponsors such advisory and educational services as will assist them in the development of housing  
12 plans and projects.

13       (d) Subject to the approval of the Oregon Housing Stability Council, make noninterest bearing  
14 advances, in accordance with ORS 456.710 and the policies of the department, to qualified nonprofit  
15 sponsors for development costs of housing projects until mortgage funds are released to repay the  
16 advances as provided in ORS 456.710.

17       (e) Advise and assist appropriate state agencies, governmental bodies and public or private  
18 housing sponsors, cities and counties, in all programs and activities which are designed or might  
19 tend to fulfill the purposes of ORS 456.548 to 456.725 and ORS chapter 458.

20       (f) Encourage and assist in the planning, development, construction, rehabilitation and conser-  
21 vation of dwelling units for persons and families of lower income.

22       (g) Be the central state department to apply for, receive and distribute, on behalf of appropriate  
23 state agencies, governmental bodies and public or private housing sponsors in the state, grants, gifts,  
24 contributions, loans, credits or assistance from the federal government or any other source for  
25 housing programs except when the donor, grantor, or lender of such funds specifically directs some  
26 other agency to administer them. Moneys received under this section shall be deposited with the  
27 State Treasurer in an account separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the  
28 account shall be credited to the account.

29       (h) For the purposes of acquiring moneys, credits or other assistance from any agency or  
30 instrumentality of the United States or from any public corporation chartered by the United States,  
31 comply with any applicable agreements or restrictions for the receipt of such assistance and become  
32 a member of any such association or public corporation chartered by the United States.

33       (i) Assist individuals, appropriate state agencies, governmental bodies and public or private  
34 housing sponsors through a program which provides housing information, planning, educational  
35 services and technical assistance.

36       (j) Comply with the requirements of ORS 443.225 in assisting in the development of any housing  
37 for residential care, training or treatment for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities  
38 or mental or emotional disturbances.

39       (2) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 456.255 to 456.265, 456.625 (7) [*and*], 458.480 to 458.490  
40 **and section 2 (3) of this 2023 Act**, the department may not itself develop, construct, rehabilitate  
41 or conserve housing units; and neither the department nor any housing sponsor, including but not  
42 limited to any association, corporation, cooperative housing authority or urban renewal agency or-  
43 ganized to provide housing and other facilities under ORS 456.548 to 456.725, may own, acquire,  
44 construct, purchase, lease, operate or maintain utility facilities, including facilities for the gener-  
45 ation of electricity, for the distribution of gas and electricity, and for the conveyance of telephone

1 and telegraph messages.

2 (3) In accordance with the provisions of this section and with the advice of the council, the  
 3 department shall establish statewide priorities for housing programs. State agencies shall coordinate  
 4 their housing programs with the department. All state agencies intending to apply for federal funds  
 5 for use in planning, developing or managing housing, or rendering assistance to governmental bodies  
 6 or sponsors or individuals involved therein shall submit a description of the proposed activity to the  
 7 department for review not less than 30 days prior to the intended date of submission of the appli-  
 8 cation to the federal agency. The department shall determine whether the proposal would result in  
 9 a program that would overlap, duplicate or conflict with any other housing program in the state. If  
 10 the department finds overlapping or duplication or conflict, it shall recommend modifications in the  
 11 application. The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall consider these recommen-  
 12 dations in making its decision to approve or disapprove the application. The department shall com-  
 13 plete its review and forward its recommendations within 15 working days after receipt of the  
 14 notification. Failure of the department to complete the review within that time shall constitute ap-  
 15 proval of the application by the department.

16 (4) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Department may participate in dis-  
 17 cussions and deliberations of the council. The director may suggest policies and rules to the council,  
 18 including those necessary to stimulate and increase the supply of housing for persons and families  
 19 of lower income.

20 **SECTION 5. The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

21 **(1) ORS 458.620 (1)(f) (2019 Edition) and 458.667 (2019 Edition) established and regulated**  
 22 **the use of the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account within the Oregon Housing Fund.**

23 **(2) The Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account was abolished by section 38, chapter 10,**  
 24 **Oregon Laws 2020 (second special session), the amendments to ORS 458.620 by section 39,**  
 25 **chapter 10, Oregon Laws 2020 (second special session), and the repeal of ORS 458.667 by**  
 26 **section 40, chapter 10, Oregon Laws 2020 (second special session).**

27 **(3) On September 20, 2020, the Governor purported to veto sections 38 to 40, chapter 10,**  
 28 **Oregon Laws 2020 (second special session), citing the single-item veto exception allowed for**  
 29 **appropriation bills under Article V, section 15a, of the Oregon Constitution.**

30 **(4) Oregon courts have not interpreted the term “appropriation bills” for purposes of**  
 31 **Article V, section 15a, of the Oregon Constitution.**

32 **(5) There may exist a legal dispute as to whether the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief**  
 33 **Account was abolished by sections 38 to 40, chapter 10, Oregon Laws 2020 (second special**  
 34 **session), considering the Governor’s purported single-item veto.**

35 **(6) The repeal of ORS 458.667 by section 6 of this 2023 Act is intended to confirm that,**  
 36 **regardless of the effect of the Governor’s purported single-item veto, the Wildfire Damage**  
 37 **Housing Relief Account is abolished and ORS 458.667 is repealed. Any moneys remaining in**  
 38 **the account on the effective date of this section shall be transferred to the General Fund for**  
 39 **general governmental purposes.**

40 **SECTION 6. ORS 458.667 is repealed.**

41 **SECTION 7. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
 42 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**  
 43 **on its passage.**