

HB 3506 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Revenue

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Transfers \$3 million from the Senior Property Tax Deferral Revolving Account to the Healthy Homes Repair Fund in the 2025-27 biennium to support housing for seniors and individuals with disabilities, including the installation of accessibility modifications. Takes effect January 1, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Seniors represent a large and growing segment of Oregon's population of 4.3 million people. The number of Oregonians who are 65 years of age or over has exceeded the number of children under the age of 18 since 2023. For comparison, in 2000 the elderly population was a little over half of the child population.

The Homestead Property Tax Deferral Program is available for qualifying homeowners who are 62 years of age or over or qualify for Social Security disability benefits. Funds are used from the Senior Property Tax Deferral Revolving Account to pay the property taxes on behalf of participating homeowners. Simple six percent interest accrues annually on the deferred property taxes. Although repayments can be made at any time, all deferred taxes, interest, and fees are due upon disqualification—when the owner moves, sells the homestead, or dies. Repayments are then credited to the revolving account. The balance of the revolving account was \$74 million on October 31, 2024.

An Oregon State University study, which surveyed participants in the Homestead Property Tax Deferral Program, found the most important obstacles for them to remain in their home were health issues, major home repair costs, medical or health insurance bills, house or yard maintenance, and utility costs.