



Cities Support HB 2634 A-Engrossed

The League of Oregon Cities strongly supports HB 2634 A. The deferral program is lifeline for thousands of senior and disabled residents who may otherwise not be able to stay in their homes. While participation has dropped somewhat in recent years, likely a result of very low interest rates on conventional financing, the program still meets a need for many residents including those who may not qualify for a mortgage. With the so called “silver tsunami” of aging baby boomers this program will only become more relevant in the future.

As amended the bill addresses several issues with the Oregon Property Tax Deferral for Disabled and Senior Citizens program, including but not limited to:

- extends the sunset through 2032,
- changes qualification criteria to allow disabled heirs and surviving spouses to continue to participate in the program after the death of a qualified senior,
- allows late filing for seniors who may not realize they have an issue until they receive their tax bill, and
- increases the allowed home value in rural counties with a low median value.

We expect these changes will have only modest impacts for the deferral account fund balance which is currently very healthy. Still, we have not forgotten the lessons of 2010 and will continue to watch this critical program for any signs of trouble.

LOC Contact

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