SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate votes for bill giving poorest Oregonians a break on property taxes
HB 3640 will help four largest counties better allocate their time and resources

SALEM – In a rare Saturday session, the Senate voted this morning to pass legislation that helps out some of the most low-income homeowners in the state. House Bill 3640 requires the four largest Oregon counties to cancel property taxes on manufactured homes valued at less than $12,500.

"The people living in these homes typically live at or below the poverty line," said Senator Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), who carried the bill on the floor. "Small bills of a hundred dollars here and there can add up to an insurmountable obstacle. This bill offers relief for these low-income Oregonians."

Rosenbaum explained that the cost of collecting outstanding taxes from these properties is often more expensive than forgiving the debt in the first place.

"In a time when so many people are struggling to get by and county services are already stretched thin, this bill gives low-income Oregonians a break and counties some flexibility," said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), the chief Senate sponsor of the bill.

According to Multnomah County, the majority of properties valued under $15,000 were delinquent, even when outstanding debts were only $100 a year.

"This legislation will allow county assessors to better budget their time," said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). "Not all counties are required to participate, but it does give them another tool in their toolbox."

The counties affected are Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Lane. HB 3640 was introduced by Representative Val Hoyle (D-Eugene) in the House. The bill will now go to the Governor for his signature.

For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit oregonsenatedemocrats.com