



HB 2442: Agency Transition – Policy & Governance

SUMMARY

HB 2442 seeks to continue the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) transition plan by consolidating governing bodies and creating a new policy commission, the Oregon Housing Stability Council, to set policy and direction across agency programs. There will be minimal fiscal impact which can be managed with existing Department resources.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, Governor Kitzhaber charged the Housing and Community Services Department with examining our governance, service delivery, and community partnership model. OHCS spent more than a year completing this task, which included data collection and analysis, best practices research, financial analysis, and solicited input and feedback from stakeholders, partners, and advisory bodies. This process resulted in a range of recommendations including several related to policy and governance. In February 2014, OHCS reported to the Governor and Legislature with an outline of a plan to make changes to the governance and service delivery structure.

In the 2015 Legislative session, OHCS is requesting to continue this process by implementing changes outlined in February 2014. Currently, OHCS has several statutorily named advisory bodies, all of which provide a narrow scope of oversight and policy direction. No advisory body provides policy direction and oversight across the agency's mission.

PROPOSED CHANGES

- Replaces the existing State Housing Council with the new Oregon Housing Stability Council, and adds some responsibilities for the body. It also increases the numbers of members on the body from seven to nine members. OHCS would like this body to provide oversight and policy direction across agency program areas moving forward.
- Transfers authority from two advisory bodies, the Advisory Committee on Energy (ACE) and the Community Development Incentive Advisory Board, to the new Oregon Housing Stability Council, and abolishes the bodies.
- Abolishes the Interagency Council on Hunger and Homelessness (ICHH) and transfers responsibility for addressing homelessness to the new Oregon Housing Stability Council.
- Transfers the responsibility for leading state policy on hunger to Department of Human Services. Transfers the role of the Hunger Relief Task Force in relation to the Department, including its funding role and the responsibility for naming members of the task force to the Department of Human Services.
- Removes the Department's role in Housing Cost Impact Statements in Chapter 183.
- Removes the responsibility of the State Housing Council for publishing data on residential building permits as it relates to setting of business license taxes by local jurisdictions.

Note: No changes will be made to the Agriculture Workforce Housing Facilitation Team, the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, the Oregon Volunteers Commission on Voluntary Action and Service, or their relationship to the Department.

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