



## HB 2442-A Engrossed: Agency Transition – Policy & Governance

### SUMMARY

HB 2442-A Engrossed 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.

HB 2442-A Engrossed passed the House 56-0 on March 3, 2015

### 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 including: oversight of the State Housing Plan; developing policies to address geographic and racial disparities; and oversight over the agency budget, financial plan, and policy direction. It increases the number of members from seven to nine. This body will 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. OHCS will work closely with utility companies and community action agencies to fulfill requests for data and information, and there will be a sub-committee of the new body to guide energy policy within the Department.
- 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 OHCS' role in the Hunger Task Force to DHS, as well as the responsibility for naming members of the Task Force. The bill updates these statutes, and makes changes to how the Task Force is funded moving forward.
- 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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