

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 3420

By COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

April 27

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 9, after the period delete the rest of the line and lines 10 and
2 11 and insert “Individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, especially the chron-
3 ically homeless with disabilities such as addictions and mental illness, are extremely fragile.
4 Chronically homeless individuals and families are the least likely of the population to achieve inde-
5 pendent living, and while efforts to manage homelessness provide critical access to temporary
6 housing and services for individuals and families in crisis, these efforts fail to address long-term
7 needs. By creating a stable housing environment for such individuals and families, other issues can
8 be addressed, including employment, job training and health care.”.

9 In line 13, delete “continuum” and insert “system”.

10 In line 21, after “First” insert “Pilot”.

11 In line 24, after the period insert “This approach to homelessness differs from traditional ap-
12 proaches by providing housing assistance, case management and support services responsive to in-
13 dividual or family needs after housing is obtained. By using this approach when appropriate,
14 communities can significantly reduce the amount of time that individuals and families experience
15 homelessness and prevent further episodes of homelessness.”.

16 In line 27, after “First” insert “Pilot”.

17 In line 28, after the period insert “The Housing First Pilot Program emphasizes that social ser-
18 vices provided to enhance individual and family well-being can be more effective when individuals
19 and families have first obtained housing.”.

20 Delete pages 2 through 4 and insert:

21 **“SECTION 2. As used in sections 1 to 3 of this 2015 Act:**

22 **“(1)(a) ‘Homelessness’ means:**

23 **“(A) Living in one of the following conditions:**

24 **“(i) Lacking a fixed, regular, adequate and habitable nighttime residence; or**

25 **“(ii) Having a primary nighttime residence that is:**

26 **“(I) Housing shared with another person due to loss of housing or economic hardship;**

27 **“(II) A motel, hotel, travel trailer as defined in ORS 801.565 or campground, due to lack**
28 **of alternative housing;**

29 **“(III) An emergency or transitional shelter;**

30 **“(IV) A public or private shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations,**
31 **including but not limited to hotels for persons receiving welfare benefits and transitional**
32 **housing for persons with mental illness;**

33 **“(V) An institution that provides temporary residence for individuals who have been or**
34 **will be institutionalized under the laws of this state;**

35 **“(VI) A public or private place that is not designed for or ordinarily used as regular**

1 sleeping accommodations for human beings; or

2 “(VII) A car, park, public space, abandoned building, bus or train station or other similar
3 setting not intended for human habitation.

4 “(B) Being migratory and living under one or more of the conditions listed in subpara-
5 graph (A)(ii) of this paragraph.

6 “(C) Being released from a jail, a prison, the juvenile justice system, the child welfare
7 system, a mental health facility, a facility for persons with developmental disabilities, a res-
8 idential addiction treatment program or a hospital, with no subsequent residence identified
9 or provided and lacking the resources and support to obtain housing.

10 “(b) ‘Homelessness’ does not mean being imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to
11 state or federal law or to sharing housing due to cultural preferences, voluntary arrange-
12 ments or traditional networks of support.

13 “(2) ‘System of care’ means an approach to provide housing assistance, case management
14 and support services that meets the specific, noncritical needs of individuals and families
15 experiencing homelessness after initial, critical housing needs have been met and as these
16 persons move toward the goal of stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency, with the ul-
17 timate objective being to end homelessness and to prevent a return to homelessness for
18 these persons.

19 “SECTION 3. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department, with the advice of
20 the State Housing Council and in collaboration with the Community Action Partnership of
21 Oregon, the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority, shall establish
22 the Housing First Pilot Program for the purpose of providing housing assistance, case man-
23 agement and support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the
24 cities of Eugene and Albany. The program shall be designed to address the societal causes
25 of homelessness by obtaining housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness
26 and providing a critical link between emergency and transitional housing systems and
27 community-based social services, education and health care in the communities in which
28 such individuals and families live.

29 “(2) The program must include, at a minimum, the following:

30 “(a) Housing assistance that is not time-limited and not contingent on compliance with
31 support services;

32 “(b) Crisis intervention and short-term stabilization;

33 “(c) Screening, intake and needs assessment;

34 “(d) Case management; and

35 “(e) Support services provided through community-based social service, educational and
36 health care programs and entities, as necessary to make possible the success of participants
37 in avoiding homelessness on a permanent basis.

38 “(3) In consultation with the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, the Housing and
39 Community Services Department shall create pilot projects in the cities of Eugene and
40 Albany that contract with community action agencies described in ORS 458.505 that the de-
41 partment determines are eligible to implement the system of care in the area served by the
42 community action agency.

43 “(4) The contract between a community action agency and the Housing and Community
44 Services Department to implement the system of care shall, at a minimum, provide that the
45 community action agency shall:

1 “(a) Provide screening, intake and needs assessment to identify individuals and families
2 who are eligible to participate in the Housing First Pilot Program based upon likelihood of
3 success, need and other factors as set forth in rules adopted by the department;

4 “(b) Assist eligible participants to obtain housing and to enter into standard lease
5 agreements for housing;

6 “(c) Provide case management and support services as appropriate to make less likely a
7 state of homelessness or a return to homelessness for participants; and

8 “(d) Provide information to the department as identified in rules adopted by the depart-
9 ment to ensure that the system of care is being implemented and that the objectives of the
10 program are being achieved at the pilot project sites.

11 “(5) In implementing the Housing First Pilot Program and to the extent possible, the
12 State Housing Council, the Housing and Community Services Department, the Department
13 of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority shall:

14 “(a) Prioritize state and federal funding opportunities that support efforts to reduce and
15 end homelessness through the system of care implemented by the program;

16 “(b) Identify and implement initiatives and other programs that:

17 “(A) Increase the supply of rental housing needed to meet the demand for housing for
18 individuals and families who are experiencing or may experience homelessness; and

19 “(B) Increase the availability of employment opportunities for individuals who are experi-
20 encing homelessness;

21 “(c) Train homelessness specialists and place them in centers that are easily accessed
22 by individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and

23 “(d) Contract with a state institution of higher education to research and document the
24 costs of homelessness in this state, including but not limited to the costs incurred by law
25 enforcement agencies, courts, jails and hospitals responding to situations involving individ-
26 uals and families experiencing homelessness, for the purpose of obtaining recommendations
27 on how best to allocate public funds to prevent and end homelessness.

28 “(6) The Housing and Community Services Department, in consultation with the Com-
29 munity Action Partnership of Oregon, shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this
30 section.

31 “SECTION 4. (1) There is created within the State Treasury, separate and distinct from
32 the General Fund, the Housing First Pilot Program Fund. Interest earned by the Housing
33 First Pilot Program Fund shall be credited to the fund.

34 “(2) Moneys in the Housing First Pilot Program Fund shall consist of:

35 “(a) Amounts donated to the fund;

36 “(b) Amounts appropriated or otherwise transferred to the fund by the Legislative As-
37 sembly;

38 “(c) Investment earnings received on moneys in the fund; and

39 “(d) Other amounts deposited in the fund from any source.

40 “(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Housing and Community
41 Services Department to carry out the provisions of sections 1 to 3 of this 2015 Act.

42 “(4) The department may use moneys in the fund to pay the administrative costs asso-
43 ciated with the fund and with carrying out the provisions of sections 1 to 3 of this 2015 Act.

44 “SECTION 5. The Housing and Community Services Department shall report to the
45 committees related to human services and housing during the 2017 regular session of the

1 **Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly regarding the status, outcome and findings of the Hous-**
2 **ing First Pilot Program.**

3 **“SECTION 6. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-**
4 **priated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July**
5 **1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2 million, which may be expended for pur-**
6 **poses of implementing and administering the Housing First Pilot Program established under**
7 **section 3 of this 2015 Act.**

8 **“SECTION 7. (1) Sections 1 to 4 of this 2015 Act are repealed on June 30, 2017.**

9 **“(2) Any balance in the Housing First Pilot Program Fund established under section 4**
10 **of this 2015 Act that is unexpended and unobligated on the date set forth in subsection (1)**
11 **of this section, shall revert to the General Fund and be available for general governmental**
12 **purposes.**

13 **“SECTION 8. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
14 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**
15 **on its passage.”.**

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