

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2011

Ordered by the House March 31
Including House Amendments dated March 31

Sponsored by Representative KOTEK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Housing and Community Services Department to administer study to assess disparities between federal and local calculations of fair market rent.

Establishes Task Force on Housing Authority Capacity. Directs task force to assess capacity of housing authorities to provide services, determine methods to enhance capacity to provide services and *[examine feasibility of implementing state-sponsored housing voucher program]* **estimate difference between Housing Choice Voucher Program voucher recipient eligibility and existing Housing Choice Voucher Program resources.**

Sunsets task force on December 31, 2018.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to housing assistance; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

5 (1) **Access to affordable housing is necessary for the economic prosperity of communities**
6 **in this state.**

7 (2) **The federal Housing Choice Voucher Program currently calculates voucher holder**
8 **payments using the Fair Market Rent calculation method, resulting in voucher payments**
9 **that are chronically lower than actual market rents in certain geographic areas.**

10 (3) **Determining Housing Choice Voucher Program payments using undervalued Fair**
11 **Market Rent calculations has the effect of concentrating low income families in limited ge-**
12 **ographic areas and limiting Housing Choice Voucher Program voucher holders' options for**
13 **upward mobility.**

14 **SECTION 2. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall administer a**
15 **study to assess the disparities between federal and local calculations of fair market rent.**

16 (2)(a) **The department shall submit to each housing authority a request that the housing**
17 **authority participate in the study. Within 30 days of receiving the request, each housing**
18 **authority shall give the department notice in writing of the housing authority's decision to**
19 **participate or not participate in the study.**

20 (b) **If more than one housing authority serves an area included in a fair market rent**
21 **calculation, as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Develop-**
22 **ment pursuant to 24 C.F.R. 982.503, no housing authority that serves the area may partic-**
23 **ipate in the study unless each housing authority that serves the area gives the Housing and**
24 **Community Services Department notice of a decision to participate in the study under par-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **agraph (a) of this subsection.**

2 **(3) The department shall commission an independent research organization to collect all**
3 **information necessary for a housing authority to petition the United States Department of**
4 **Housing and Urban Development for an increase in voucher payments to reflect the local**
5 **estimate of fair market rent, as determined by the Housing and Community Services De-**
6 **partment by rule.**

7 **(4) The independent research organization shall submit a report to the Housing and**
8 **Community Services Department no later than September 15, 2018, that contains the fol-**
9 **lowing:**

10 **(a) A summary of the progress of the study; and**

11 **(b) A summary of the information described in subsection (3) of this section.**

12 **(5) Upon receipt of the information described in subsection (3) of this section, a partic-**
13 **ipating housing authority may develop a petition to the United States Department of Housing**
14 **and Urban Development to increase the value of Housing Choice Voucher Program vouchers**
15 **distributed throughout the area served by the housing authority, if necessary to align with**
16 **the local estimate of fair market rent, as determined by the Housing and Community Ser-**
17 **vices Department by rule.**

18 **(6) The department shall submit a report on the study to the interim legislative com-**
19 **mittees on housing and human services no later than January 15, 2019.**

20 **(7) As used in this section, "Housing Choice Voucher Program" has the meaning given**
21 **that term in ORS 456.375.**

22 **SECTION 3. (1) The Task Force on Housing Authority Capacity is established.**

23 **(2) The task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:**

24 **(a) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Department shall appoint:**

25 **(A) One member to represent the Statewide Housing Choice Advisory Committee; and**

26 **(B) Eight members to represent housing authorities.**

27 **(b) The Governor shall appoint:**

28 **(A) One member who receives assistance through the federal Housing Choice Voucher**
29 **Program, as that term is defined in ORS 456.375; and**

30 **(B) One member who is a private landlord that houses Housing Choice Voucher Program**
31 **voucher holders.**

32 **(c) The Director of the Oregon Health Authority shall appoint one member to represent**
33 **the Oregon Health Authority.**

34 **(d) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint one member to represent the De-**
35 **partment of Veterans' Affairs.**

36 **(3) The task force shall:**

37 **(a) Assess the capacity of housing authorities throughout this state to provide services;**

38 **(b) Determine methods to enhance the capacity of housing authorities to provide ser-**
39 **vices; and**

40 **(c) Estimate the difference between Housing Choice Voucher Program voucher recipient**
41 **eligibility in this state and existing Housing Choice Voucher Program resources.**

42 **(4) The task force may work with members of the communities served by housing au-**
43 **thorities and experts in the field of housing, community services and poverty.**

44 **(5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction**
45 **of business.**

1 **(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members**
2 **of the task force.**

3 **(7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.**

4 **(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**
5 **ment to become immediately effective.**

6 **(9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson**
7 **or of a majority of the members of the task force.**

8 **(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.**

9 **(11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may**
10 **include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assem-**
11 **bly related to housing no later than September 15, 2018.**

12 **(12) The Housing and Community Services Department shall provide staff support to the**
13 **task force.**

14 **(13) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for**
15 **expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.**

16 **(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**
17 **the task force in the performance of duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted**
18 **by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task**
19 **force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

20 **SECTION 4.** **Section 3 of this 2017 Act is repealed on December 31, 2018.**

21 **SECTION 5.** **This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
22 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect**
23 **on its passage.**

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