

From: Sen Taylor
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 8:41 AM
To: Sen Gelser <Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov>; SHS Exhibits <SHS.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: FYI regarding amendment to HB 278

Hi Chair Gelser and Committee staff,

I have already submitted a -1 amendment to the committee analyst, but we learned just after getting that back, that one other language tweak would go a long way to allowing more organizations to offer the Rent Well program. The reason for the change is that folks who want to offer the program but do not have access to the Homeless Information Management System cannot do so and meet the requirements of the statute, which creates a barrier for providing additional classes. Proponents of the bill are all onboard with this tweak, I have not heard of opposition to the bill or the proposed language changes.

The section with the requested changes is below, and the two lines are highlighted. Robert Mauger from LC confirmed they can make this change, and I asked Robert to draft an amendment that captures the changes we have already requested in the -1 with this new language.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I also want to make you aware that Caitlyn Kennedy from Rent Well, and Emily Reiman from NEDCO will be presenting information on the Rent Well program and barriers to foster youth transitioning to their own housing, respectively.

Thanks so much,

Amanda

(6)(a) The department may contract with a public or private provider to administer the program within an individual county or region of this state and to distribute financial assistance to eligible landlords as provided in this subsection. The department is not subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 279A or 279B in awarding a contract under the provisions of this subsection. The department shall, in consultation with the council, establish criteria for proposals, prepare and publish requests for proposals, receive proposals and award contracts to eligible providers. Eligible providers must, at a minimum:

(A) Have experience providing tenant readiness education sufficient to provide tenant training and certification as described in subsection (3) of this section;

(B) Have experience placing persons in low income households into permanent housing;

(C) Have experience working collaboratively with local landlords and service providers; and

(D) Demonstrate the organizational capacity to administer the program, including the ability to track data and performance measure outcomes and to timely process requests for and payments of financial assistance.

(b) Program providers shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the council:

~~(A) Enter information into the homeless management information system maintained by the department;~~

(B) Provide reports regarding the number of landlords and **program eligible** tenants participating in the program, demographic information about tenants, identified tenant risk factors and the number and amount of requests for financial assistance made under the program;

(C) Review and verify requests for financial assistance and make payments in accordance with established department processes for distributing funds; and

(D) Collect data to measure the following program performance outcomes:

(i) Increased housing stability, as measured by the percentage of total program participants who reside in and maintain permanent housing for a minimum of 12 months;

(ii) Increased landlord participation, as measured by the percentage increase in the number of landlords participating in the program; and

(iii) Successful tenant readiness education, as measured by the percentage of tenants successfully completing the tenant training and receiving certification as described in subsection (3) of this section.