

HB 2962 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to conduct a statewide study on homelessness. Requires OHCS to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by January 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The number of Oregonians experiencing homelessness is significant. During the 2017 Point In Time Homeless Count, community organizations counted almost 14,000 Oregonians experiencing homelessness. Oregon Department of Education also reports that in the 2017-18 school year, almost 22,000 school children experienced homelessness at least once during the year, significantly and negatively impacting their ability to meet benchmarks and learn effectively.

Rent costs are high and vacancy rates are low, and more Oregonians are having difficulty finding safe and affordable housing.

Programs to prevent or end homelessness are typically administered at the local level. Funding from the state goes to community action agencies to provide assistance with rent, deposits, application fees, case management, and more. Local services include crisis intervention, emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, case management, and homelessness prevention programs.