

HB 4039 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates to the Department of Human Services \$2.5 million from the General Fund for services to be provided to unaccompanied homeless youth. Declares emergency. Effective on Passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Defines unaccompanied homeless youth. Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a statewide assessment of the needs of and the continuum of services for unaccompanied homeless youth that determines demographic information and services needed by this population, capacity of community action agencies to serve this population, and existing partnerships and coordination between state agencies, school districts and nonprofit organizations. Authorizes DHS to develop program guidelines and to award funds to organizations that serve this population. Directs DHS to provide a final report on efforts to the Legislative Assembly no later than March 1, 2021. Authorizes DHS to award enhancement grants to organizations serving homeless youth to increase accessibility to shelter facilities, and to support outreach, culturally specific services, mental health or substance abuse services, to support transitional housing options, such as host home projects. Authorizes DHS to award grants to organizations operating host homes, provided that organization operated a host home project on January 1, 2020 and can meet other program guidelines. Provides terms of grant administration. Directs DHS to report on the host home projects to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2021. Appropriates General Funds to DHS to conduct statewide assessments (\$230,000), and to provide grants to assist with assessments (\$70,000), provide grants to provide youth services (\$1,000,000), and to provide host home project grants (\$1,200,000). Sunsets grant programs effective July 1, 2021, and state assessment January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program was assigned to the Department of Human Services (DHS). In 2019 it was placed under Self Sufficiency Programs. According to a 2016 report from the DHS Homeless Youth Advisory Committee, during the 2014-2015 school year, Oregon school districts counted 3,232 unaccompanied homeless students. During the January 2015 Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Point-in-Time count, 1,280 unaccompanied youth plus 135 parenting youth (with 157 children), totaling 1,572 homeless youth were counted.

House Bill 4039 appropriates to the Department of Human Services \$2.5 million from the General Fund for services to be provided to unaccompanied homeless youth.