

HB 4001 -1 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: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department to conduct a study of housing-related laws and submit findings to the interim Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statewide Shelter Study Report (2019)
- Short-term shelter beds solution in response to study
- More than half of the people experiencing homelessness in the state are unsheltered
- Seventy-five percent of Oregon's homeless are outside of Metro
- Attempt to move the state into an emergency mind set
- Partnering with local communities
- Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) funding
- Use of land after it is no longer used as a shelter
- Need for wraparound services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 02/04/2020

Replaces the measure. Defines “emergency shelter.” Limits the use of a building designated as an emergency shelter to emergency shelter use, except upon approved application of a permit for other use under current land use laws and local land use regulations. Requires local governments to approve an application for the development or use of land for an emergency shelter if certain requirements are met, including operation by a nonprofit corporation and that the facility include space for residents’ sleeping and bathing. Outlines operations that facilities may provide onsite at no cost to residents. Establishes that approval of an emergency shelter is not a land use decision and is therefore only subject to review under ORS 34.010 to 34.100, which governs writs of review. Rescinds emergency shelter provisions on July 1, 2021.

Allows local governments to authorize transitional housing accommodations in parking lots or other facilities where persons may reside overnight in a motor vehicle, even if the motor vehicle was not designed for use as temporary living quarters.

Defines “low-barrier emergency shelter” and “navigation center,” and outlines the operations for both. Directs OHCS to award grants and provide technical assistance to fund: the acquisition and staffing of facilities to be used as low-barrier emergency shelters; acquisition of property for navigation centers in the cities of Salem or Eugene; short-term rental assistance for persons transitioning from emergency shelters to permanent or temporary housing; or providing certain no-cost services to persons who are homeless. Stipulates that when awarding grants, OHCS shall: distribute funds across the state; prioritize investment by areas of highest need; consider the results and recommendations of the Oregon Statewide Shelter Study and the requirements of ORS 458.650, which

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governs grant policies for the Emergency Housing Account. Rescinds low-barrier emergency shelter and navigation center provisions on January 2, 2022.

Allows OHCS to use funds from the Emergency Housing Account for the development of technical assistance and training resources for organizations developing and operating emergency shelters and transitional housing accommodations.

Appropriates \$40 million from the General Fund to OHCS.

BACKGROUND:

According to US Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 15,876 Oregonians were homeless in 2019. This figure has increased year over year, and represents a 30% increase since the 2014 statewide Point-in-Time count, five years prior. Oregon has one of the highest rates of individuals experiencing homelessness. In 2018 HUD reported that Oregon was one of three states in the US with 50 or more individuals experiencing homelessness per 10,000 individuals. Of Oregon's homeless, 29% (4,609) are experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning they have lived in a shelter or a place not meant for habitation for more than a year, or have experienced homelessness four or more times in the last three years.

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) 2019 Statewide Housing Plan finds homelessness to impact communities of color disproportionately, as Native Americans/ Alaskan Natives, African Americans, and Native Hawaiians/ Pacific Islanders experience homelessness at significantly higher rates than Whites and the overall Oregon population.

Oregon's rate of unsheltered homelessness, at 64% (10,142 individuals in 2019) is one of the highest in the US. Many of these unsheltered homeless individuals are in families (65%). At the national level, two-thirds of unsheltered homeless individuals in families were located in Oregon, California, Florida, or Colorado. Unaccompanied youth, of which 1,590 were identified in the 2019 PIT count, are largely unsheltered (72%). The count also identified 1,438 homeless veterans, an increase of 11% in five years.