

## HB 4001 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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**Action Date:** 02/12/20

**Action:** Without recommendation as to passage, with amendments. Refer to Rules, then to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/5, 2/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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 as a local land use regulation. Requires local governments to approve an application for the development or use of land for an emergency shelter if certain requirements are met, including being operated by a public benefit corporation, a religious corporation, a local government or a non-profit. Allows shelters to provide various on-site services at no charge to individuals served by shelters. Specifies that a shelter may include a youth shelter, winter or warming shelter, shelter or family violence shelter home. 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. Repeals 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. Appropriates to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) from General Fund, for distribution to cities to conduct or contract for creation of navigation centers, \$2 million to the City of Bend, \$4 million to the City of Salem and \$4 million to the City of Eugene. Appropriates to Oregon Housing and Community Services \$28 million General Fund to award grants and \$2 million to develop and provide technical assistance.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statewide Shelter Study Report (2019)
- Short-term shelter beds solution in response to study
- More than half of 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 and State Homeless Assistance Program funding
- Use of land after it is no longer used as a shelter
- Need for wraparound services

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

According to US Housing and Urban Development (US HUD), 15,876 Oregonians were homeless in 2019. This figure has increased year over year, and represents a 30 percent 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 US 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 percent (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 percent (10,142 individuals in 2019) is one of the highest in the US. Many of these unsheltered homeless individuals are in families (65 percent). At the national level, two-thirds of unsheltered homeless individuals in families were located in the states of Oregon, California, Florida, or Colorado. Unaccompanied youth, of which 1,590 were identified in the 2019 Point in Time count, are largely unsheltered (72 percent). The count also identified 1,438 homeless veterans, an increase of 11 percent in five years.