

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5003 Commission for the Blind

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Education Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative Nosse

HB 5003 is the budget bill for the Commission for the Blind.

The agency's programs are focused on two main objectives: employment and independence for Oregonians who are blind or visually impaired. The agency provides employment and technology services, training, supported employment programs, and small business opportunities.

The 2021-23 budget recommended by the Subcommittee is \$24.6 million total funds, 69 positions, and 66.42 FTE. The recommended budget includes a phase out of a one-time appropriation for the agency to replace an aging vocational rehabilitation case management system. The system upgrade to satisfy federal reporting requirements is anticipated to be complete by March 2022. Due to changing requirements in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the recommended budget also includes an increase of \$506,931 General Fund to serve as matching funds to retain \$1,873,027 in Federal Funds. In addition, the recommended budget increases Federal Funds limitation by \$246,914 and authorizes the establishment of one Accountant 4 position (1.00 FTE) to serve as a Grant Accountant to ensure that complex federal and other funds financial reports are prepared in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 5003 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.