

HB 3026 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hudson, Rep. Morgan

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/17/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/24, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) from charging identification card fees for individuals experiencing homelessness. Directs individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain fee waiver forms from nonprofit organizations that meet ODOT standards. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Coordination among state agencies to implement program
- Limitations on eligibility and number of cards issued
- Rulemaking process to provide for flexibility working with nonprofit organizations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to Pew Charitable Trusts, many homeless persons lack photo identification because of the cost and difficulty of maintaining the required personal documents. A 2004 study by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) found that many homeless people are denied access to benefits and services without photo identification, and a national survey conducted by the Brennan Center for Justice at The NYU School of Law in 2006 found that low-income individuals are the least likely to possess identification.

NLCHP's study indicated that 36 percent of clients could not obtain photo identification because they could not afford it, and homeless persons were denied the following benefits in a given month due to lack of photo identification: 51.1 percent were denied Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits; 30.6 percent were denied Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF); 53.1 percent were denied food stamps; 54.1 percent were denied access to shelters or housing services; and 45.1 percent were denied access to Medicaid or medical services. The NLCHP's study also found that people without identification face increased difficulty with law enforcement: 33.7 percent of homeless persons were asked by police to produce identification, 59.8 percent suffered harassment or arrest if they could not, and 8 percent had their identification confiscated.

House Bill 3026 allows homeless persons to obtain identification cards free of charge.