

HB 2006 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Action Date: 04/20/21
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Anderson, Golden, Jama, Patterson
Nays: 1 - Linthicum
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Devin Edwards, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/15, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires local governments to approve emergency shelter developments under certain conditions. Expands definition of transitional housing to include motor vehicles in parking lot or facility allowing overnight stay. Authorizes Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to use Emergency Housing Account funds to provide grants and technical assistance to organizations operating emergency shelters and transitional housing. Allows Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide grants to local governments for development of navigation centers. Sets repeal dates for various provisions. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's percentage of unsheltered homeless individuals is one of the highest in the United States. A 2019 Urban Institute report found that 24 percent of homeless individuals (10,142 people) in Oregon were unsheltered. According to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has increased by 37 percent since 2015, and the 2019 Statewide Shelter Study calculated a shortfall of 5,800 emergency shelter beds for individuals and families. The Legislative Assembly expanded access to transitional housing in 2019 to allow individuals without safe housing to be included among eligible residents, and lifted a two-parcel limit on campgrounds used to provide transitional housing accommodations.

During the first special session of 2020, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 4212 to provide temporary shelter to individuals and families lacking permanent housing. The measure allowed local governments and certain nonprofit organizations to locate and develop emergency shelters in available buildings or on undeveloped sites without the need for any land use approvals for the underlying property, such as a zone change or a conditional use permit. It established similar provisions for the development and operation of navigation centers, defined as low-barrier emergency shelters open seven days per week with the purpose of connecting homeless individuals and families with health services, permanent housing, and public benefits. These provisions were repealed on September 28, 2020, 90 days after the measure's effective date.

The health and economic impacts of COVID-19, as well as displacement from the 2020 fire season, exacerbated the need for safe shelter for a growing homeless population.

House Bill 2006 A expands transitional housing and supports shelter development. It requires local governments to approve emergency shelter developments under certain conditions and includes motor vehicles in parking lots

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or at facilities that allow overnight stays within the definition of transitional housing. It authorizes Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to use Emergency Housing Account dollars to provide grants and technical assistance to organizations developing and operating emergency shelters and transitional housing. It further allows the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide grants to local governments for development and operation of navigation centers, which must be fully operational on or before July 1, 2022. The requirement for local governments to approve emergency shelter developments expires July 1, 2022, and OHCS' and DAS' authority to provide grants expires January 2, 2024.