

HB 4013 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Education to establish a pilot program to assist school districts in preventing student homelessness with one-time payments for unpaid rent, past-due utilities, or move-in expenses. Expands unaccompanied homeless youth grant program eligibility for organizations. Appropriates \$437,500 to DHS for said program. Expands tuition and fee waiver program to include current or former homeless youth and appropriates \$35,000 to DHS for the purpose of providing grants to programs that will assist homeless youth in applying for and accessing the tuition and fee waivers. Expands qualifications for authorization of independent residence facilities for unmarried persons. Directs DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly with recommendations for legislation to reduce the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness by at least 25 percent over a five-year period. Takes effect 91 days following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of counties' capacity to address youth homelessness
- Grant distribution and responsibilities of Department of Education and Department of Human Services
- Homeless youth definition and tracking eligibility for program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces the measure.

Expands unaccompanied homeless youth grant program eligibility for organizations. Appropriates \$437,500 to DHS for said program.

Expands tuition and fee waiver program to include a student who is a current foster child or former foster child or a current homeless youth or former homeless youth. Appropriates \$35,000 to DHS for the purpose of providing grants to programs that will assist homeless youth in applying for and accessing the tuition and fee waivers.

Expands qualifications for authorization of independent residence facilities for unmarried persons. Appropriates \$750,000 to the Department of Human Services for implementing the homeless youth independent residence facilities program.

Directs DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly with recommendations for legislation to reduce the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness by at least 25 percent over a five-year period.

BACKGROUND:

The right of homeless children and youth to have equal access to the same appropriate public education provided to other children is ensured under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program, enacted in 1987. Students qualify for McKinney-Vento Homeless Program assistance when they reside in living situations that are not fixed, regular, and/or adequate. The ODHS

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Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program is responsible for coordinating statewide planning for delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. Oregon’s Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program began under the Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) in 2005, however OCCF was abolished in 2011 and the responsibility for the coordination and delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth was transferred to DHS. In 2015, the legislature directed DHS to enhance services for runaway and homeless youth, appoint an advisory committee and begin making annual reports related to the program. In July 2021, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2544, which allows ODHS to award two-year grants to organizations currently providing services to unaccompanied homeless youth through the RHY grant program.

House Bill 4013 expands the unaccompanied homeless youth grant program eligibility and creates a pilot program in the Department of Education to assist schools in preventing student homelessness.