

## **HB 4123 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

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**Prepared By:** Michael Graham

**Meeting Dates:** 2/24

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

House Bill 4123 directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide grants to local governments and nonprofit corporations that agree to create a coordinated homeless response system. The measure appropriates \$8 million General Fund to DAS in the 2021-23 biennium to provide grants of \$1 million each to eight local governments and nonprofit corporations, which include Benton County, Coos County, Deschutes County, Lincoln County, the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Polk County, Tillamook County, and Umatilla County. Each recipient must use the grant money to hire staff, acquire technical assistance and building capacity, and pay for other expenses as needed.

Each coordinated homeless response system must report to the Housing and Community Services Department, including the Oregon Housing Stability Council, and one or more interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2023, and September 15, 2024. Within one year of receiving the grant, a coordinated homeless response system must adopt a five-year strategic plan for how to fund ongoing operations, create pathways to permanent and supportive housing, eliminate racial disparities within homeless services, and incorporate national best practices. The measure takes effect on passage and sunsets on January 2, 2025.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

According to data provided by the National Council on Homelessness in 2020, Oregon's rate of homeless individuals is one of the highest in the nation, with an estimated 15,876 individuals who are homeless on any given night, or an average of 37.9 per 10,000 people in the general population. According to the Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD), the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has increased by 37 percent since 2015, and HCSD's 2019 Statewide Shelter Study calculated a shortfall of 5,800 emergency shelter beds for individuals and families. The health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as individuals and families displaced by the 2020 wildfires, has amplified the need for safe shelter, housing, and supportive services to meet the needs of a growing homeless population.

House Bill 4123 directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide a two-year, \$1 million grant to eight specified local governments and nonprofit corporations for the creation of a coordinated homeless response system. The measure designates the use of grant moneys for program establishment, staffing and outreach, and requires each grant recipient to adopt a five-year strategic plan and report to HCSD, the Oregon Housing Stability Council, and one or more interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2023 and September 15, 2024.