

House Bill 4013

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Human Services for Representative Anna Williams)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to establish pilot program in which certain school districts make one-time distributions to families of students to assist with unpaid rent, past-due utilities or move-in expenses.

Modifies eligibility requirements for organizations that may receive grants from unaccompanied homeless youth grant program.

Extends higher education tuition and fee waivers to current or former homeless youth.

Extends independent residence facility eligibility to current or former homeless youth.

Directs Department of Human Services to submit to interim legislative committees recommendations for legislation to reduce numbers of youth experiencing homelessness.

Appropriates moneys to Department of Human Services for certain homeless youth programs.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to youth homelessness; amending ORS 350.300 and 418.475 and section 1, chapter 531, Oregon Laws 2021; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

EVICITION PREVENTION AND RAPID REHOUSING PILOT PROGRAM

SECTION 1. (1) **The Department of Education shall establish a pilot program to assist school districts in preventing student homelessness.**

(2) **The department shall distribute moneys under this section to:**

(a) **The five school districts with the largest number of kindergarten through grade 12 students experiencing homelessness; and**

(b) **The five school districts, exclusive of the school districts described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, with the largest percentage of kindergarten through grade 12 students experiencing homelessness.**

(3) **School districts may use moneys received under this section to make one-time housing assistance distributions when:**

(a) **A student's family is facing eviction for nonpayment of rent due to an emergency or financial setback;**

(b) **A student's family is or has been homeless and cannot qualify for housing due to past-due rent or unpaid utility bills; or**

(c) **A student's family is or has been homeless, qualifies for housing and requires financial assistance with move-in expenses.**

(4) **A student's parent or guardian may apply for assistance under this section by pro-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **viding the school district with the following information:**

2 (a) **A brief description of the financial hardship that is preventing the family from ob-**
3 **taining or retaining housing;**

4 (b) **The name and address of the family’s landlord, utility provider or prospective landlord**
5 **and the amount of unpaid rent or utilities or the amount of move-in expenses for which fi-**
6 **nancial assistance is sought; and**

7 (c) **Documentation of ability to pay the rent or utilities going forward.**

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9 **UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH GRANT PROGRAM**

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11 **SECTION 2.** Section 1, chapter 531, Oregon Laws 2021, is amended to read:

12 Sec. 1. (1) As used in this section, “unaccompanied homeless youth” means a person who is at
13 least 14 years of age but not more than 24 years of age, who is not in the physical custody of a
14 parent or legal guardian and who is homeless.

15 (2) In addition to any other scholarships or grants, the Department of Human Services may
16 award two-year grants to organizations that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth.

17 *[(3) An organization is eligible to apply for a grant under this section if the organization has an*
18 *existing grant with the department to provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth.]*

19 **(3) The department may award a grant under this section to an organization that:**

20 (a) **Has an existing grant from the department to provide services to unaccompanied**
21 **homeless youth;**

22 (b) **Has an existing contract with the department to provide services to unaccompanied**
23 **homeless youth and the department has determined that the organization is capable of ex-**
24 **anding to provide services in additional communities;**

25 (c) **Is a nonprofit organization or a coalition of nonprofit organizations that the depart-**
26 **ment has determined is capable of meeting the grant program requirements; or**

27 (d) **Is a new entity that the department determines is capable of meeting the grant pro-**
28 **gram requirements.**

29 (4) Grants awarded under this section may be used for any of the following:

30 (a) To increase the accessibility of any of the following programs and services to unaccompanied
31 homeless youth:

32 (A) Shelter facilities;

33 (B) Outreach;

34 (C) Culturally specific services; and

35 (D) Mental health or substance abuse services; and

36 (b) To create or strengthen partnerships with host home programs and other transitional hous-
37 ing options.

38 (5) The department may adopt rules to administer the grant program described in this section.

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40 **TUITION AND FEE WAIVERS**

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42 **SECTION 3.** ORS 350.300 is amended to read:

43 350.300. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 352.105 or 353.050, a current [*foster child*] or former
44 foster child, **or a current or former homeless youth**, under 25 years of age who is enrolled in
45 courses totaling one or more credit hours at an institution of higher education as an undergraduate

1 student shall have the amount of tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending
 2 an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

3 (2) A student who is a current foster child or former foster child is entitled to waiver of tuition
 4 and all fees under subsection (1) of this section until the student has received the equivalent of four
 5 years of undergraduate education.

6 (3) As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, a current foster child or
 7 former foster child must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for that
 8 academic year.

9 (4) A waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section may be reduced by the
 10 amount of any federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant
 11 program established under ORS 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution of higher
 12 education. For the purposes of this subsection, "federal aid scholarships or grants" does not include
 13 Chafee Education and Training Grant vouchers (P.L. 107-133).

14 (5) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Former foster child" means an individual who, for a total of six or more months while be-
 16 tween 14 and 21 years of age, was:

17 (A) A ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e), in the legal custody of the De-
 18 partment of Human Services for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching
 19 16 years of age; or

20 (B) An Indian child subject to ORS 419B.600 to 419B.654, under the jurisdiction of a tribal court
 21 for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching 16 years of age.

22 **(b) "Homeless youth" means a person under the age of 25 who has received services from**
 23 **a provider contracted by the department to provide services to homeless persons, has re-**
 24 **ceived services from a host home, as defined by the department by rule, or has been identi-**
 25 **fied as homeless by a school district in this state.**

26 [(b)] (c) "Institution of higher education" means:

27 (A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

28 (B) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341; or

29 (C) The Oregon Health and Science University.

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 31 **INDEPENDENT RESIDENCE FACILITIES**

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 33 **SECTION 4.** ORS 418.475 is amended to read:

34 418.475. (1) Within the limit of moneys appropriated therefor, the Department of Human Services
 35 may establish, license, certify or authorize independent residence facilities for unmarried persons
 36 who:

37 (a) Are at least 16 years of age and not older than 20 years of age;

38 (b)(A) Have been placed in at least one substitute care resource;

39 **(B) Have received services from a provider contracted by the department to provide**
 40 **services to homeless persons;**

41 **(C) Have received services from a host home, as defined by the department by rule; or**

42 **(D) Have been identified as homeless by a school district in this state;**

43 (c) Have been determined by the department to possess the skills and level of responsibility re-
 44 quired for the transition to adulthood;

45 (d) Have received permission from the appropriate juvenile court, if they are wards of the court;

1 and

2 (e) Have been determined by the department to be suitable for an independent living program.

3 (2) Independent residence facilities shall provide independent housing arrangements with coun-
4 seling services and minimal supervision available from at least one counselor.

5 (3) Each resident shall be required to maintain a department approved independent living plan
6 consisting of education, employment or volunteer activities, or a combination thereof, and shall be
7 required to pay a portion or all of the resident’s housing expenses and other support costs. The de-
8 partment may approve an exception to the requirements of this subsection for reasons of temporary
9 loss of employment or of other financial support.

10 (4) The department may make payment grants directly to persons enrolled in an independent
11 living program who, at a minimum, meet the requirements described in subsection (1)(a) to (c) of this
12 section for food, shelter, clothing, transportation and incidental expenses. The payment grants shall
13 be subject to an agreement between the person and the department that establishes a budget of
14 expenses.

15 (5) The department may establish cooperative financial management agreements with a person
16 enrolled in an independent living program and for that purpose may enter into joint bank accounts
17 requiring two signatures for withdrawals. The management agreements or joint accounts may not
18 subject the department or any counselor involved to any liability for debts or other responsibilities
19 of the minor.

20 (6) The department shall make periodic reports to the juvenile court as required by the court
21 regarding any ward of the court who is enrolled in an independent living program.

22 (7) The enrollment of a person in an independent living program in accordance with the pro-
23 visions of subsection (1) of this section or making payment grants under subsection (4) of this section
24 does not remove or limit in any way the obligation of the parent of the person to pay support as
25 ordered by a court under the provisions of ORS 419B.400.

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27 **REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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29 **SECTION 5. In addition to the reporting requirements under ORS 417.799, the Depart-**
30 **ment of Human Service’s September 15, 2022, report to the interim legislative committees**
31 **must include recommendations for legislation to reduce the numbers of youth experiencing**
32 **homelessness by at least 25 percent over a five-year period. The department shall develop the**
33 **recommendations under this section in consultation with the Housing and Community Ser-**
34 **VICES Department. The recommendations must include descriptions of new programs to ad-**
35 **dress youth homelessness or options for extending access to existing adult programs to**
36 **youth, together with estimates of additional funding necessary to implement or extend the**
37 **proposed programs. The report must also include a projected 20-year estimate of cost savings**
38 **to state and local health, education, corrections and public safety programs if the 25 percent**
39 **reduction in youth homelessness over five years is achieved.**

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41 **APPROPRIATIONS**

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43 **SECTION 6. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-**
44 **priated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of**
45 **the General Fund, the amount of \$437,500 for the purpose of awarding grants under section**

1 1, chapter 531, Oregon Laws 2021, to organizations described in section 1 (3)(b), (c) or (d),
2 chapter 531, Oregon Laws 2021, as amended by section 2 of this 2022 Act, that will provide
3 services in communities where services for unaccompanied homeless youth are severely
4 constrained or absent.

5 (2) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the
6 Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of the General
7 Fund, the amount of \$35,000 for the purpose of providing grants to programs that will assist
8 homeless youth in applying for and accessing the tuition and fee waivers under ORS 350.300,
9 as amended by section 3 of this 2022 Act, or the independent residence facility program under
10 ORS 418.475, as amended by section 4 of this 2022 Act.

11
12 MISCELLANEOUS
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14 SECTION 7. (1) Section 1 of this 2022 Act is repealed on January 2, 2024.

15 (2) Section 5 of this 2022 Act is repealed on January 2, 2023.

16 SECTION 8. The unit captions used in this 2022 Act are provided only for the convenience
17 of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any leg-
18 islative intent in the enactment of this 2022 Act.

19 SECTION 9. This 2022 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2022
20 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
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