

## HB 2879 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

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**Action Date:** 04/04/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-2-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Dexter, Fahey, Gamba, Hartman, Helfrich, Helm, Levy E, Wright

**Nays:** 2 - Cate, Javadi

**Exc:** 1 - Boice

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Claire Adamsick, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/30, 4/4

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to utilize its self-sufficiency programs to provide financial support to nonprofit organizations providing affordable housing support to low-income college students. Appropriates, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, \$5 million in General Fund moneys to DHS for grants to eligible nonprofits supporting affordable housing for low-income college students. Repeals provisions of measure January 2, 2026.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Allocations in measure directed at nonprofit grants, not on study
- Rate of houselessness and housing insecurity among college students
- Parallel legislation to fund a study on affordable housing needs of college students statewide
- Ensuring future data collected includes all Oregon regions and types of colleges and universities

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

A 2019 survey conducted by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice reported that, of respondents representing 14 of 17 community colleges across Oregon, 52 percent of Oregon students were housing insecure in the previous year, while 20 percent of respondents were homeless.

The Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (Task Force) was a bicameral legislative task force established by House Bill 2590 (2021). In the Task Force's Report on Findings and Recommendations for 2023 Legislative Session, it described Oregon's ongoing affordable housing crisis as putting "intense strains on underrepresented students, including pushing students out of housing or far away from campus. While this crisis is not unique to students, institutions of higher education are unique environments where unique opportunities may exist to help students be and remain housed." The Task Force recommended establishment of a statewide work group of higher education, housing, finance, and other experts to examine and make recommendations to address student housing availability, accessibility, and affordability.

House Bill 2879 A allocates \$5 million in General Fund moneys to the Department of Human Services for grants to eligible nonprofits supporting affordable housing for low-income college students.