

HB 3209 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 04/04/23

Action: Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Conrad, Dexter, Evans, Grayber, Hieb, Lewis, Tran

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/7, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the emergency veterans housing program within the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS). Directs OHCS to coordinate with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and an advisory board created at the direction of this Act, to award grants for project costs for residential housing for persons of lower income who are service-disabled veterans and their families. Appropriates \$75 million from the General Fund for the program. Sunsets January 2, 2028.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intended for areas with populations between 5,000 and 55,000 residents
- Consideration of mixed-use development
- Possible applicability to unincorporated areas

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) estimated in 2019 that, on any given night, there are approximately 1,400 homeless veterans in Oregon. The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) performs a Point-in-Time count of homeless Oregonians annually, and while numbers had trended downward for years until that time, since 2019 there has been a significant increase in homeless people in Oregon, likely including veterans.

House Bill 3209 establishes the emergency veterans housing program within the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department and appropriates \$75 million from the General Fund for the program. It directs OHCS to coordinate with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and an advisory board created at the direction of this Act, to award grants for project costs for residential housing for persons of lower income who are service-disabled veterans and their families.