

A-Engrossed
House Bill 4039

Ordered by the House February 17
Including House Amendments dated February 17

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

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.

Directs Department of Human Services to conduct statewide assessment of needs of and services for unaccompanied homeless youth in Oregon.

Authorizes department to award one-year grants to organizations that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth and to organizations that operate host home projects for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Sunset grant programs on July 1, 2021.

Requires department to report on host home projects established through use of grants to committees of Legislative Assembly relating to housing, homeless youth services and high school education no later than September 15, 2021.

[Appropriates moneys to Department of Human Services for services provided to unaccompanied homeless youth.] **Appropriates moneys to department for statewide assessment and grants.**

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to homeless youth; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

(2) The Department of Human Services shall conduct a statewide assessment of the needs of and the continuum of services for unaccompanied homeless youth in Oregon. The assessment must determine:

(a) Demographic information about unaccompanied homeless youth in this state, including age, race, primary language, gender, school enrollment status and types of homelessness experienced.

(b) To the extent possible, other demographic information about unaccompanied homeless youth in this state, including disability, school grade level, length of homelessness and reasons for homelessness.

(c) The average numbers of beds needed for unaccompanied homeless youth, the types of housing available and the durations of stay required.

(d) Other services that are needed and available, including but not limited to culturally specific programming, mental health treatment, addiction treatment, academic support and job training.

(e) To the extent possible, the capacity of community action agencies, emergency housing assistance programs, state homeless assistance programs, shelters, host home programs,

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 other housing programs and resources available through the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
2 sistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq., to serve the unaccompanied homeless youth population.

3 (f) The existing partnerships and coordination between the Department of Human Ser-
4 vices and other organizations, including but not limited to the Housing and Community Ser-
5 vices Department, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Department of Education, school
6 districts and nonprofit organizations serving unaccompanied homeless youth and youth at
7 risk of becoming homeless.

8 (3)(a) In addition to any other scholarships or grants, the Department of Human Services
9 may award one-year grants in the amount of no more than \$10,000 per grant to organizations
10 that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth to assist with the assessment re-
11 quired by this section.

12 (b) An organization is eligible to apply for a grant under this subsection if the organiza-
13 tion has an existing contract with the department to provide services to unaccompanied
14 homeless youth.

15 (c) The department may adopt rules to administer the grant program described in this
16 subsection.

17 (4)(a) The department shall provide a preliminary report on the results of the assessment
18 to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than
19 December 1, 2020.

20 (b) The department shall provide a final report on the results of the assessment to an
21 appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than
22 March 1, 2021.

23 **SECTION 2. Unaccompanied homeless youth services enhancement grant program.** (1)
24 As used in this section, “unaccompanied homeless youth” means a person who is at least 14
25 years of age but not more than 24 years of age, who is not in the physical custody of a parent
26 or legal guardian and who is homeless.

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

30 (3) An organization is eligible to apply for a grant under this section if the organization
31 has an existing grant with the department to provide services to unaccompanied homeless
32 youth.

33 (4) Grants awarded under this section may be used:

34 (a) To increase the accessibility of the following programs and services to unaccompanied
35 homeless youth:

36 (A) Shelter facilities;

37 (B) Outreach;

38 (C) Culturally specific services; and

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

40 (b) To create or strengthen partnerships with host home programs and other transitional
41 housing options.

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

44 **SECTION 3. Host home projects.** (1) As used in this section:

45 (a) “Host home project” means a project that facilitates an arrangement under which an

1 unaccompanied homeless youth resides in the home of a private individual, pursuant to the
2 terms of a contract between the private individual and the youth, for free or at below-market
3 rent.

4 (b) “Long-term host home project” means a host home project run by an organization
5 that has a memorandum of understanding or a letter of agreement with one or more school
6 districts and in which unaccompanied homeless youth participants, on average during the
7 most recent two years, resided in host homes for a minimum of 180 days, as reported by the
8 relevant school district.

9 (c) “Short-term host home project” means a host home project in which unaccompanied
10 homeless youth participants, on average during the most recent two years, resided in host
11 homes for a maximum of 180 days, as reported by the relevant school district.

12 (d) “Unaccompanied homeless youth” means a person who is:

13 (A) At least 16 years of age but not more than 21 years of age;

14 (B) Not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian;

15 (C) Not in the custody of the Department of Human Services;

16 (D) Not a ward of the state; and

17 (E) Homeless.

18 (2) In addition to and not in lieu of any other scholarships or grants, the department
19 may award one-year grants to organizations that operate host home projects for unaccom-
20 panied homeless youth.

21 (3) An organization is eligible to apply for a grant under this section if the organization
22 operated a host home project on January 1, 2020, and can demonstrate the ability to:

23 (a) Expand host home projects in communities in which the organization provides ser-
24 vices;

25 (b) Establish new long-term host home projects in communities that do not have long-
26 term host home projects; or

27 (c) Establish new short-term host home projects.

28 (4) Recipients of grants awarded under this section shall work to achieve the following
29 outcomes for unaccompanied homeless youth:

30 (a) Improved school attendance.

31 (b) Participation in formal or informal mentoring.

32 (c) Increased access to nutrition, health care, mental trauma-informed support and
33 transportation services.

34 (5) A recipient of a grant awarded under this section shall ensure all individuals of 18
35 years of age or older residing in the host home who are not the unaccompanied homeless
36 youth have an approved background check under ORS 181A.200 and 409.027.

37 (6) A host home is not a child-caring agency as defined in ORS 418.205.

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

40 **SECTION 4. Report.** The Department of Human Services shall report on the host home
41 projects established under section 3 of this 2020 Act to committees or interim committees
42 of the Legislative Assembly relating to housing, homeless youth services and high school
43 education no later than September 15, 2021. The report must include information about the
44 effectiveness of the projects, including:

45 (1) A description of the process used to identify and reach out to unaccompanied

1 **homeless youth;**

2 (2) **Assessment data and other indicators to determine how well the housing, health and**
3 **academic needs of unaccompanied homeless youth are being met;**

4 (3) **Demographic information about youth served or assessed for program participation;**

5 (4) **The academic progress of students participating in host home projects; and**

6 (5) **Assessment by the youth, host families and partner government and nonprofit entities**
7 **about their experience in the host home projects.**

8 **SECTION 5. Appropriations. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation,**
9 **there is appropriated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June**
10 **30, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$230,000, to conduct the statewide assess-**
11 **ment required under section 1 of this 2020 Act.**

12 (2) **In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the**
13 **Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the General**
14 **Fund, the amount of \$70,000, to provide grants to organizations that provide services to un-**
15 **accompanied homeless youth to assist with the statewide assessment required under section**
16 **1 of this 2020 Act.**

17 (3) **In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the**
18 **Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the General**
19 **Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000, to provide the unaccompanied homeless youth services en-**
20 **hancement grants described in section 2 of this 2020 Act.**

21 (4) **In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the**
22 **Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the General**
23 **Fund, the amount of \$1,200,000, to provide the host home project grants described in section**
24 **3 of this 2020 Act.**

25 **SECTION 6. Sunset dates. (1) Sections 2 and 3 of this 2020 Act are repealed on July 1,**
26 **2021.**

27 (2) **Section 1 of this 2020 Act is repealed on January 1, 2022.**

28 **SECTION 7. Captions. The section captions used in this 2020 Act are provided only for**
29 **the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or**
30 **express any legislative intent in the enactment of this 2020 Act.**

31 **SECTION 8. Emergency clause. This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate preser-**
32 **vation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020**
33 **Act takes effect on its passage.**

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