

HB 2004 -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/23, 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Housing and Community Services Department to study issues relating to housing and report to appropriate committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding for local governments to develop emergency shelters and navigation centers in areas where unsheltered homelessness is on the rise
- Life-threatening health and safety risks for unhoused individuals, particularly in cold weather
- Whether some service providers are adequately positioned to compete for grant dollars for operational funds

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-5 Replaces original measure. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, appropriates \$27 million in General Fund moneys to the Housing and Community Services Department for the Emergency Housing Account for emergency shelter grants, and \$2 million for technical assistance for organizations developing and operating emergency shelters or transitional housing accommodations. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, appropriates to the Department of Administrative Services General Fund moneys for the establishment of navigation centers in the following jurisdictions: \$1.5 million to the City of McMinnville; \$1.5 million to the City of Roseburg, \$2.5 million to the City of Bend; \$2.5 million to the City of Medford; \$5 million to the City of Salem; and \$5 million to Lane County for a navigation center in the City of Eugene. Operative on the date that House Bill 2006 becomes law. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's rate of homeless individuals who are unsheltered is one of the highest in the United States. A 2019 Urban Institute report found that 24 percent (10,142 individuals) of homeless individuals in Oregon were unsheltered. The health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as individuals and families displaced by last year's wildfires, have underscored the need for safe shelter to meet the health and safety needs of a growing homeless population.

In June 2020, the Legislative Assembly passed HB 4214 in the First Special Session. The measure allowed local governments and certain non-profit organizations to locate and develop emergency shelters in available buildings or on undeveloped sites without the need for any land use approvals, such as a zone change or conditional use permit, for the underlying property. The provisions of the measure were repealed on September 28, 2020, 90 days after the effective date of HB 4214.

The state expanded the statutory interpretation of transitional housing in 2019 to allow individuals without safe housing to be included among eligible residents, and it removed a two-parcel limit on campgrounds established for providing transitional housing accommodations.

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House Bill 2004 appropriates General Fund moneys to Oregon Housing and Community Services to aid eligible local governments and organizations in the development and operation of emergency shelters and transitional housing accommodations. It appropriates General Fund moneys to specified cities and counties for the development of navigation centers, which are low-barrier emergency shelter open seven days per week with the purpose of connecting homeless individuals and families with health services, permanent housing, and public benefits.