

SB 410 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/4, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes existing requirements for local governments to implement humane policies for the removal of houseless persons camping on public property, applicable to state agencies. Requires storage of unclaimed personal property close to public transportation and to the location of the removed campsite. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulties already faced by houseless persons; making property reclamation easier after campsite removal or relocation
- Local challenges with campsite clean-up, and the discernment, collection, and storage of individual's personal belongings
- Scarcity of available storage
- Sharing current relocation obligations across multiple community partners

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment dated 3/24/21] Removes references to state agencies. Removes storage proximity requirement within five miles of campsite leaving requirement of storage within six blocks of public transit station, applicable to Multnomah County. Requires unclaimed personal property in Multnomah County be given to law enforcement or local social services workers or entities or personnel authorized to issue citations regardless of whether 24-hour notice is required.

BACKGROUND:

Local governments are currently required to implement humane policies with respect to the relocation or removal of houseless persons from established campsites on public property. Such policies must require law enforcement to inform houseless persons and local social service providers at least 24 hours in advance; must provide for law enforcement to store unclaimed personal property for at least 30 days; and must provide for discretion of law enforcement and social services personnel to review and update policy implementation, among other provisions.

Senate Bill 410 expands the requirements for humane policies at the local level, with respect to the removal of houseless persons from public property, to apply to state agencies. The measure also requires the storage of personal property belonging to a removed houseless person, to be within six blocks of a public transportation station and five miles from the campsite in the relevant city.