

HB 2544 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$2,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to award two-year enhancement grants to organizations that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth, specifies purposes of said grants and specifies organization eligibility requirements.

Appropriates \$2,400,000 000 to the Department of Human Services to award two-year grants to organizations that operate host home projects for unaccompanied homeless youth, specifies purposes of said grants and specifies organization eligibility requirements. Directs the Department of Human Services to submit annual reports on the host home project grant program to the Legislative Assembly, with the first report due no later than September 15, 2022.

Sunsets grant programs on July 1, 2023.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Appropriates \$2,200,000 to the Department of Human Services to award two-year enhancement grants to organizations that provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth, specifies purposes of said grants and specifies organization eligibility requirements.

Appropriates \$2,200,000 000 to the Department of Human Services to award two-year grants to organizations that operate host home projects for unaccompanied homeless youth, specifies purposes of said grants and specifies organization eligibility requirements

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Education released a report in January 2020 that shows that more than 1.5 million students enrolled in public schools nationwide were homeless during the 2017-18 academic year, a 15 percent increase over the 2015-16 school year. A 2017 national survey of over 26000 youth and young adults estimates that each year about 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness, of which 700,000 are unaccompanied minors (Voices of Youth Count from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago report). On any given night, approximately 41,000 unaccompanied youth, aged 13-25, experience homelessness. Many factors increase a young person's odds of experiencing homelessness. Demographic risk factors for becoming homeless include being Hispanic or black; parenting and unmarried; or LGBTQ, with LGBTQ youth having more than twice the risk of being homeless than their cisgender or heterosexual peers.

Homeless youth are vulnerable to multiple threats, including not having their basic food and shelter needs met, untreated mental health disorders, substance use, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection, sexual exploitation (including survival sex to meet basic needs), physical victimization, and suicide (National Conference of State Legislatures). According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in three teens on the street will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home and the American Academy of Pediatrics finds youth experiencing homelessness are twice as likely to attempt suicide as their peers who are not homeless.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

HB 2544 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Youth who are homeless often experience a significant disruption in their education due to the transient nature of homelessness.

House Bill 2544 invests \$2.4 million to expand Host Homes and \$2 million to expand existing shelter and support services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.