SB 851 -1   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	4/5, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide grants to nonprofit corporations to provide affordable rental housing for public university students who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Requires commission to report on grants to legislative committees by September 15, 2023. Sunsets January 2, 2024. Appropriates $1 from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for biennium beginning July 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Appropriates $280,000 from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for upcoming biennium for grant program.

BACKGROUND:

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, students in post-secondary education are significantly more likely to experience housing and food insecurity, which are risk factors for experiencing homelessness, particularly in areas with a relatively high cost of living. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determines the Area Median Income (AMI) for each region of the country, setting a standard for the affordability of housing. Affordable rental housing is housing that is reserved for individuals whose income is below a certain percentage of the AMI for that region. Providers of affordable rental housing typically take advantage of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), also known as Section 42.

Senate Bill 851 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to offer affordable housing to students of public universities, requires the commission to report to legislative committees on the grants, and appropriates moneys from the General Fund for the grants for the upcoming biennium.