

HB 2006 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

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Meeting Dates: 4/15, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires local governments to approve emergency shelter developments under certain conditions. Expands definition of transitional housing to include motor vehicles in parking lot or facility allowing overnight stay. Grants authority to Oregon Housing and Community Services to use Emergency Housing Account dollars to provide grants and technical assistance to organizations operating emergency shelters and transitional housing. Allows Department of Administrative Services to provide grants to local governments for development of navigation centers. Sets repeal dates for various provisions. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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. According to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has increased by 37 percent since 2015, and the department's 2019 Statewide Shelter Study calculated a shortfall of 5,800 emergency shelter beds for individuals and families. The health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as individuals and families displaced by last year's wildfires, underscores the need for safe shelter to meet the health and safety needs of a growing homeless population.

In June 2020, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 4212 (in the First Special Session) to provide temporary shelter to individuals and families lacking permanent housing. The measure allowed local governments and certain nonprofit 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. It established similar provisions for the development and operation of navigation centers, defined in statute as low-barrier emergency shelters open seven days per week with the purpose of connecting homeless individuals and families with health services, permanent housing, and public benefits. The provisions of the measure were repealed on September 28, 2020, 90 days after the effective date of HB 4212.

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.

House Bill 2006 A requires local governments to approve emergency shelter developments under certain conditions. The measure expands the definition of transitional housing to include motor vehicles in parking lots or facilities allowing overnight stay. OHCS may use Emergency Housing Account dollars to provide grants and technical assistance to organizations developing and operating emergency shelters and transitional housing. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) may provide grants to local governments for development and operation of navigation centers, which must be fully operational on or before July 1, 2022. Requirements for local

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governments to approve emergency shelter developments expire on July 1, 2022. New OHCS and DAS authorities are repealed on January 2, 2024.

PRELIMINARY