

SB 410 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing

Prepared By: Claire Adamsick, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/18, 5/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires unclaimed personal property of homeless individuals removed from an established camping site in Multnomah County be given to a law enforcement official, local social service agency, or outreach worker, regardless of whether a 24-hour notice is required. Requires that unclaimed personal property be stored within six blocks of a public transit station. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 18; Nays, 11--Anderson, Boquist, Findley, Girod, Hansell, Heard, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Robinson, Thomsen; Excused, 1--Thatcher.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has increased by 37 percent since 2015, and the department's 2019 Statewide Shelter Study calculated shortfall of 5,800 emergency shelter beds for individuals and families.

Oregon Law provides a set of required elements that local governments must adopt as part of policies related to camping by homeless individuals. Through legal settlements or ordinances, some local governments have established specific guidelines governing the removal of homeless individuals from public property being used for the purpose of shelter or temporary residence and for the storage and/or disposal of property discovered within an established camping site.

Senate Bill 410 A requires homeless persons' unclaimed personal property in Multnomah County to be given to local social services workers, law enforcement, or personnel authorized to issue citations, regardless of whether 24-hour notice is required, and further requires the storage of such property within six blocks of a public transit station.