

House Concurrent Resolution 5

Sponsored by Representatives REYNOLDS, MARSH; Representatives GRAYBER, REARDON, SANCHEZ, SOLLMAN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Declares intent to develop statewide strategy involving behavioral health mobile crisis response teams.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas police officers are called upon to respond to a broad range of issues that are often
3 outside of their primary responsibilities and training; and

4 Whereas police officers are not trained to handle or de-escalate behavioral health calls involving
5 the houseless community; and

6 Whereas Oregon has a higher prevalence of mental illness than any other state, and Oregon
7 ranks last among states in access to care for persons with mental illness, an issue that acutely im-
8 pacts rural communities; and

9 Whereas 25 service areas in the state have reported that they have no mental health providers
10 in their area; and

11 Whereas a recent study found that 25 to 50 percent of fatal officer-involved shootings involved
12 a person with severe mental illness; and

13 Whereas Americans with untreated mental illness are 16 times more likely than other persons
14 to be shot and killed by police officers; and

15 Whereas Oregon incarcerates more individuals with severe mental illness than it hospitalizes;
16 and

17 Whereas the Portland Police Bureau receives a 9-1-1 call every 15 minutes reporting that a
18 person, often a member of the houseless community, has "frightened or inconvenienced" the caller;
19 and

20 Whereas such calls account for half of all calls for police assistance, and less than a quarter
21 of the calls report a crime; and

22 Whereas houseless persons are less inclined than other persons to contact the police when they
23 are victims of a crime; and

24 Whereas police officers describe unclear expectations in interactions with houseless persons,
25 and officers are often uncertain whether they should connect houseless persons to services or en-
26 force anti-camping and related laws, which often leads to the excessive use of force; and

27 Whereas Oregon must focus on a comprehensive analysis of where law enforcement ends and
28 health care begins; and

29 Whereas a proven model that can inform a new statewide approach is CAHOOTS (Crisis As-
30 sistance Helping Out On The Streets), a community policing initiative developed in 1989 in Eugene,
31 Oregon; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

