

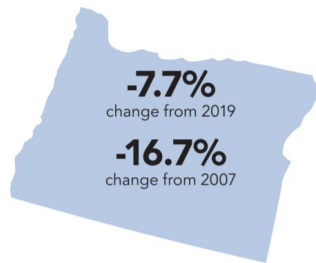
# HB 3261, Support: Allows conversion of motel/hotel properties into emergency shelters or affordable housing, Albert LePage, Eugene, Oregon

Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, Committee Members

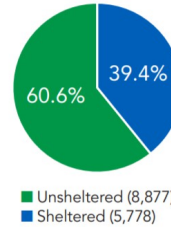
Let's begin with a picture, which is worth a thousand words . . .

However, if you want more than a thousand words, and documentation, this link to "[The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress](#)," January 2021 by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development provides more detailed information about the seriousness of homelessness in Oregon.

## OREGON



34.7 in every 10,000 people were experiencing homelessness



Total Homeless, 2020  
14,655

Source: HUD. The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, January 2021

## Estimates of Homelessness

11,995 individuals

2,660 people in families with children

1,314 unaccompanied homeless youth

1,329 veterans

4,123 chronically homeless individuals

Next, I offer these three short comments.

1. Oregon is moving in the right direction, but **homelessness is still definitely a real problem.**
2. **HB 3261 offers an innovative and simple solution** to provide emergency shelters and affordable housing for the homeless.
3. **HB 3261 is not seeking an appropriation** from the legislature or state taxpayers.

**One more important point . . .** Numbers above are **based on data from January 2020, BEFORE the pandemic hit,\*** with all its eventual, continuing and **still evolving impacts, with the potential to increase homelessness.**

Therefore, the potential that **HB 3261 offers for both the immediate and long-term future** is an obvious tool that **can provide for the need of shelter and housing.**

Finally, let me share this "comment" with you . . .

*" . . . For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in . . . "*

This bill gives communities around the state a way to "take the homeless in" . . . from the cold and heat . . . from the wet and the wind . . . [Amen.](#)'

Respectfully . . . and earnestly,

Albert LePage, Eugene, Oregon



Image: HUD report

\* [Federal analysis shows Oregon's homeless population in decline prior to pandemic, OPB article, March 19, 2021](#)