



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: February 24, 2021

TO: House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director
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SUBJECT: House Bill 3026 – Identification Card Fee Waiver for Those Experiencing Homelessness

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 3026 prevents the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) from charging a fee for issuing or renewing an identification card (ID), and up to two replacements per renewal cycle, to those who are experiencing homelessness. The measure authorizes approved nonprofit organizations' role in administering this change by submitting a form on behalf of the unhoused individual. The measure authorizes ODOT to adopt rules to administer this program, including the identification and management of participating nonprofit organizations, and becomes effective January 1, 2022.

DISCUSSION

Oregon ID cards are administered by ODOT-DMV, and serve as critical prerequisite documentation for many other essential services, such as obtaining shelter, finding employment, and accessing social services. For those experiencing homelessness, obtaining an ID card can be a substantial challenge and barrier to finding stable housing.

Currently, ODOT-DMV partners with many nonprofit organizations to serve unhoused individuals. These organizations assist their clients with navigating the application process for an ID card, and often cover the cost on behalf of their client. House Bill 3026 would formalize this partnership, by allowing ODOT to establish rules, and enroll participating nonprofit organizations. ODOT-DMV envisions establishing a process whereby qualifying nonprofits may sign up as participating members, allowing them to certify that an individual is currently experiencing homelessness and thereby eligible for an ID card fee waiver, similar to a current process in place at the Oregon Health Authority for birth certificates. When this individual subsequently applies for an ID card, their fee will be waived.

The current fee for an ID card is \$44.50, and is used to recover the cost of issuance (currently estimated at ~\$21 for renewal, and ~\$27 for an original or replacement), and to support public transit services for seniors and those with disabilities.

SUMMARY

House Bill 3026 waives the fee for an ID card issuance and renewal, and up to two replacements per renewal cycle, for individuals experiencing homelessness, if certification of homelessness is received by a participating nonprofit organization. If passed, ODOT will adopt rules to administer this program, and will work with nonprofit organizations to ensure that this service is offered to their clients.