

## HB 4013 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services

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**Action Date:** 02/08/22

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Nelson, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Scharf, Schouten, Williams

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/1, 2/8

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish a pilot program to assist school districts in preventing student homelessness with one-time housing assistance payments. Sunsets pilot January 2, 2023. Specifies criteria for organizations that provide services for unaccompanied homeless youth to be eligible for two-year grants from the Department of Human Services (DHS). Appropriates \$437,500 to DHS for said grants. Expands tuition and fee waivers available for current and former foster youth, to include current and former homeless youth. Expands eligibility to access independent residence facilities currently available to unmarried persons, to include homeless youth, as defined, and appropriates \$750,000 to DHS for this expansion. Appropriates \$35,000 to DHS for grants to programs that assist homeless youth to apply for and access tuition and fee waivers and/or independent residence facilities. Directs DHS to include recommendations for legislation as specified and in consultation with Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), to reduce the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness by at least 25 percent over a five-year period, as part of an existing report to the legislature that is due September 15, 2022. Sunsets this additional reporting requirement January 2, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of counties' capacity to address youth homelessness
- Grant distribution and responsibilities of Department of Education and Department of Human Services
- Homeless youth definition and tracking eligibility for program
- Staffing requirements of departments and their capacities, leveraging existing programs in nonprofit organizations

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Deletes the eviction prevention and rapid rehousing pilot program. Expands tuition and fee waivers that are currently available to students who are current or former foster youth, to include current or former homeless youth enrolled in courses. Expands eligibility to access independent residence facilities currently available to unmarried persons, to include homeless youth, as defined.

Appropriates \$750,000 to the Department of Human Services to implement new provisions for homeless youth to access independent residence facilities.

#### BACKGROUND:

The right of homeless children and youth to have equal access to the same appropriate public education provided to other children is ensured under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program, enacted in 1987. Students qualify for McKinney-Vento Homeless Program assistance when they reside in living situations that are not fixed, regular, and/or adequate. The Oregon

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Department of Human Services (DHS) Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program is responsible for coordinating statewide planning for delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. The RHY program began under the Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) in 2005, however OCCF was abolished in 2011 and responsibility for the coordination and delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth was transferred to DHS. In July 2021, the legislature passed House Bill 2544, which allows DHS to award two-year grants to organizations currently providing services to unaccompanied homeless youth through the RHY program.

House Bill 4013 A targets assistance for homeless youth in a handful of different ways: by creating a temporary pilot program to assist school districts with prevention; by expanding access to tuition and fee waivers to include homeless students; by expanding access to independent residence facilities to include homeless youth; and by funding two-year grants for organizations that provide services for unaccompanied homeless youth and those that assist homeless youth to apply for and access tuition and fee waivers and independent residence facilities.