

Senate Bill 1557

Sponsored by Senator PATTERSON, Representatives LIVELY, NERON, Senator JAMA; Representatives GRAYBER, REARDON, REYNOLDS, SMITH G (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**.

Requires Housing and Community Services Department to administer affordable housing preservation rental assistance pilot program for tenants of housing being withdrawn from publicly supported housing. Increases statutory damages owed to tenant with rental assistance for retaliation against or unlawful ouster of tenant. Requires department to contract with specified housing authorities to administer pilot program.

Requires department and housing authorities to report on pilot program to appropriate interim committee of Legislative Assembly before convening of 2023 regular legislative session.

Appropriates moneys to Housing and Community Services Department for pilot program.

Sunsets January 2, 2024.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to housing rental assistances; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2022 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 456.255 to**
5 **456.265.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall administer an**
7 **affordable housing preservation rental assistance pilot program that provides rental assist-**
8 **ance on behalf of low income households, as defined in ORS 456.270, who:**

9 (a) **Are tenants of publicly supported housing;**

10 (b) **Remain tenants of housing after the housing has been withdrawn from publicly sup-**
11 **ported housing; and**

12 (c) **Are not receiving other public tenant-based assistance.**

13 (2) **The amount of rental assistance:**

14 (a) **Must be calculated at least annually.**

15 (b) **Is equal to the difference between the current rent minus the rent on the date that**
16 **the tenant's housing was last publicly supported housing.**

17 (c) **Is payable directly to the tenant's landlord under a contract with the landlord.**

18 (3) **Rental assistance is not transferable for use on any other housing of the tenant or**
19 **to any other tenant.**

20 (4) **This section does not authorize a landlord to increase rents by an amount that is**
21 **prohibited under ORS 90.323 (3).**

22 (5) **Notwithstanding the limitations on damages provided in ORS 90.375, if a landlord acts**
23 **in violation of ORS 90.385 (1), a tenant receiving rental assistance under this section is en-**
24 **titled to recover the greater of:**

25 (a) **Three times the tenant's monthly rent; or**

26 (b) **Three times any actual damages sustained by the tenant as a result of the violation.**

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.

