

SB 814 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies eligibility criteria for a long-term rental-assistance program, implemented by the Housing and Community Services Department, for certain people under 25 years of age. The measure modifies this program by adding eligibility for persons at risk of becoming homeless, who are residing in a childcare center, or who are confined in a correctional facility. The measure directs the Housing and Community Services Department to consult with, in addition to entities already listed, the Oregon Youth Authority when designing the program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Measure created out of recommendations from Inter-Agency Task Force
- Necessity of stable housing as a foundation for long-term success
- Vulnerability of youth exiting the Oregon Youth Authority
- Stable housing creating overall reduced reliance on public assistance programs in the future
- Bill clarifies statute and addresses a current gap in eligibility

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment removes language that would make persons at risk of becoming homeless eligible for the long-term rental-assistance program.

BACKGROUND:

According to the [most recent state-wide homelessness estimates](#), the 2023–24 school year saw 22,072 K–12 students across Oregon reported by school districts as experiencing some form of homelessness, amounting to 4% of all students. Among those students, 2,980 were reported as experiencing unsheltered homelessness. According to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), this may be the highest rate of student homelessness, and the largest number of students experiencing unsheltered homelessness, ever reported. This count does not capture those who are not enrolled, or who are over 18 years of age. 14% of the youth who have been committed to the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) since 2022 have experienced unstable housing within three years prior to their commitment.

HB 2163 (2021) created a long-term rental assistance program available to individuals younger than 25 years of age and transitioning out of foster care, homelessness, a behavioral health or treatment facility, or a corrections or detention facility. The measure created the Long-Term Rent Assistance Fund to establish the program, and directed OHCS to create rules and design the program in consultation with other youth-services and housing providers, but not the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA).