

SB 690 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study perinatal public health issues and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026. Sunsets January 2, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Directs the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a pilot program to provide medium-term rental assistance to certain pregnant and postpartum individuals. Protects certain pregnant and postpartum tenants from eviction for nonpayment. Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to develop a long-term housing program for eligible pregnant and postpartum individuals. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Detailed Summary:

- Directs ODHS and OHA to establish a pilot program in two or three regions of Oregon to provide medium-term rental assistance to eligible individuals.
 - Defines eligible individuals as individuals who are pregnant at the time of application, eligible for medical assistance, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
 - Directs ODHS to provide or coordinate up to 12 months of rental assistance or other housing assistance.
 - Directs ODHS to provide or coordinate housing-focused care management services.
 - Directs ODHS to work with housing authorities to explore options for long-term rental assistance to program participants.
 - Directs OHA to collaborate with ODHS to develop policies to connect program participants to benefits and resources.
 - Directs ODHS to collaborate with OHA to conduct a program evaluation.
 - Sunsets September 28, 2027.
 - Appropriates \$5,000,000 to ODHS from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to implement the program.
- Directs ODHS to submit a report on the outcomes of the pilot program to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to public health by December 1, 2027.
 - Sunsets January 2, 2028.
- Prohibits the termination of a rental agreement for nonpayment if a tenant is:
 - Pregnant or no more than 12 months postpartum,
 - A member of a coordinated care organization (CCO),
 - Has applied to receive health related social needs (HRSN) housing supports with OHA,
 - Meets HRSN criteria, and
 - Provides notice to the landlord that the tenant meets the criteria.
 - Sunsets September 28, 2027.
- Permits a court to dismiss an eviction action for nonpayment if a tenant meets the above criteria.
 - Protects a tenant from prevailing party fees, costs, or attorney fees if their eviction for nonpayment is dismissed under the above criteria.

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- Becomes operative September 28, 2027.
- Directs the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), in consultation with OHCS, to include information about evictions protections for people who are pregnant or have given birth in the last year on a public notice for tenants who are facing potential eviction for nonpayment.
 - Becomes operative September 28, 2027.
- Directs OHCS to establish a rehousing program to move eligible families to permanent, safe, and stable housing.
 - Defines eligible families as families with a member who is pregnant or no more than 12 months postpartum and are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.
 - Permits OHCS to contract with third parties to provide rental assistance and supportive services to eligible families.
 - Appropriates \$15,000,000 to OHCS from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to implement the program.
- Directs OHCS to adopt rules in their youth and young adult rental assistance program to prioritize long term housing assistance for families that have a member who is pregnant, up to 12 months postpartum, or with a child under the age of one year.

BACKGROUND:

Adjusted for population size, Oregon ranks third in the nation for people experiencing homelessness, with nearly 48 of every 1,000 Oregonians experiencing homelessness. Oregon ranks first in the nation for unsheltered homelessness among families with children, and the number of children experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the state is 14 times higher than the national average ([State of the State's Housing, 2024](#)). Housing assistance may involve support finding affordable, stable housing or assistance with paying rent and other living expenses. Some housing assistance programs are designed to support certain populations, such as [veterans](#), people who are [aged 65 or older or under the age of six](#), or people living with [HIV/AIDS](#). Federally, the Housing Choice Voucher Program (also known as [Section 8](#)) helps low-income families, elderly persons, veterans, and disabled individuals afford housing in the private market.

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) administer the state's housing assistance programs. OHCS administers the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program ([OERAP](#)), which provides assistance for renters in Oregon with qualifying incomes and employment situations who are at risk for housing instability or homelessness. For Oregon Health Plan members, OHA administers the Health Related Social Needs ([HRSN](#)) housing benefit, which may help with eligible members with rental assistance, utility payments, tenancy support, and home modifications in order to keep people in their homes.

Senate Bill 690 -1 directs the Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Housing and Community Services to develop housing supports for eligible pregnant and postpartum individuals, including eviction protections.