

HB 3970 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/24, 6/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands eligibility for emergency housing assistance for individuals and families with school aged children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to include those who are pregnant or have children between the ages of birth and five. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Has minimal impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 42; Nays, 0; Absent, 1; Excused, 14; EHB, 3.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding for emergency housing programs for children and youth
- Effects of expanding program eligibility

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[ORS 458.650](#) directs the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) to administer the Emergency Housing Account to assist specified individuals from vulnerable populations who are or at risk of becoming homeless. Distribution of grant funds from the account is overseen and directed by the Housing Stability Council. [House Bill 2001 \(2023\)](#) expanded uses of the Emergency Housing Account funds to include services and assistance to school-aged children or their families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The [Youth Emergency Housing Assistance program \(YEHA\)](#), administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services, provides housing-focused services to enhance family stability and school success. These services include, but are not limited to, rent and utilities, hotel stays, and security deposits. Currently, only unaccompanied youth who are school-aged and families with school-aged children are eligible for the YEHA program based on housing status.