

House Bill 2654

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act creates and funds an OHCS program for housing disabled veterans. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.7).

Establishes the emergency veterans housing program within the Housing and Community Services Department. Requires the department, in coordination with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and an advisory board, to award grants for the project costs of residential housing for persons of lower income who are service-disabled veterans and their families.

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund for the program.
Sunsets January 2, 2030.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the emergency veterans housing program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 456.548**
5 **to 456.725.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The emergency veterans housing program is established within the**
7 **Housing and Community Services Department.**

8 **(2) Under the program, the department, in coordination with the Department of**
9 **Veterans' Affairs and the advisory board described in section 3 of this 2025 Act, shall award**
10 **grants to a qualified housing sponsor to pay for the project costs of developing and operating**
11 **a residential housing development for persons of lower income, and their families, who:**

12 **(a) Are veterans;**

13 **(b) Have a United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating of at least zero**
14 **percent as a result of an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active**
15 **military service; and**

16 **(c) Received a discharge or release under other than dishonorable conditions.**

17 **(3) Grants awarded under this section:**

18 **(a) May be used to develop housing only within a city with a population of at least 5,000**
19 **and not more than 55,000.**

20 **(b) Must be in amounts of at least \$2 million and not more than \$10 million.**

21 **(c) Must be approved by the advisory board.**

22 **SECTION 3. (1) In developing the grant application for the emergency veterans housing**
23 **program described in section 2 of this 2025 Act and in scoring and awarding grants, the**
24 **Housing and Community Services Department shall consult with an advisory board.**

25 **(2) The advisory board consists of five individuals, appointed as follows:**

26 **(a) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint:**

27 **(A) One person to represent the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and**

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.

1 (B) One person to represent the disabled veterans community.

2 (b) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Department shall appoint:

3 (A) One member to represent the Housing and Community Services Department;

4 (B) One member to represent the housing construction industry; and

5 (C) One person to represent the housing rental industry.

6 (3) The Housing and Community Services Department shall staff the meetings of the
7 advisory board. The advisory board shall meet at times established by the department.

8 (4) Members of the advisory board are not entitled to compensation for service as a
9 member.

10 (5) If there is a vacancy on the advisory board for any cause, the appointing authority
11 shall appoint a replacement.

12 (6) A majority of the members of the advisory board constitutes a quorum.

13 SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
14 ated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July
15 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$75,000,000, for the purposes of carrying out
16 sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act.

17 SECTION 5. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act are repealed on January 2, 2030.
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