

# House Bill 2655

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 makes OHCS create a housing stipend pilot program in three counties. (Flesch Readability Score: 76.5).

Requires the Housing and Community Services Department to develop a housing stipend pilot program to provide housing stipends to individuals to move to a city where their labor is expected to benefit economic development of the city. Establishes an advisory board to consult with the department on the development of the program.

Requires the department to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly on the program on or before September 15, 2028.

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the department for the program.

Sunsets on January 2, 2031.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to a strategic housing stipend pilot 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**  
5 **chapter 458.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall develop a stra-**  
7 **tegic housing stipend pilot program to provide housing stipends to individuals whose labor is**  
8 **expected to meet the needs of a city's economy as established by criteria that have been**  
9 **developed by an advisory board described in section 3 of this 2025 Act.**

10 **(2) The department shall select three cities to participate in the pilot program, including**  
11 **one city with a population greater than 55,000, one city with a population greater than 10,000**  
12 **and not more than 55,000 and one city with a population of 10,000 or less.**

13 **(3) Individuals qualifying for stipends under this section must:**

14 **(a) Agree to move to the city from outside the city;**

15 **(b) Have skills or a career that benefits the economic development or other goals of the**  
16 **city;**

17 **(c) During the period for which stipends are awarded:**

18 **(A) Reside in the city;**

19 **(B) Be employed within the city full time; and**

20 **(C) Have a household income between 60 percent and 120 percent of the area median in-**  
21 **come; and**

22 **(d) Meet any other qualifications adopted by the advisory board under section 3 of this**  
23 **2025 Act.**

24 **(4) Housing stipends provided under this section:**

25 **(a) Must be given on a monthly basis;**

26 **(b) May not be given to the same individual or family for a period of more than 18**

**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 months; and

2 (c) May not exceed \$300 per month.

3 (5) The department may contract with one or more nonprofit organizations to administer  
4 the pilot program or a portion of the pilot program.

5 **SECTION 3.** (1) In developing the strategic housing stipend pilot program described in  
6 section 2 of this 2025 Act, including the qualifications and employment sector targets for  
7 each city, the Housing and Community Services Department shall consult with an advisory  
8 board.

9 (2) The advisory board consists of seven members, appointed as follows:

10 (a) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries shall appoint one member  
11 to represent the Bureau of Labor and Industries;

12 (b) The Director of the Employment Department shall appoint one member to represent  
13 the Employment Department;

14 (c) The Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint one member to represent the De-  
15 partment of Veterans' Affairs;

16 (d) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Department shall appoint one  
17 member to represent the League of Oregon Cities; and

18 (e) The governing bodies of the three pilot cities selected under section 2 (2) of this 2025  
19 Act shall each appoint one member to represent economic development policy of the city.

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

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

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

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

27 **SECTION 4.** On or before September 15, 2028, the Housing and Community Services De-  
28 partment shall provide a report to an appropriate interim committee of the Legislative As-  
29 sembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 on the strategic housing stipend pilot program  
30 developed under section 2 of this 2025 Act.

31 **SECTION 5.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
32 ated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July  
33 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$10,000,000, for carrying out the purposes of  
34 sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act.

35 **SECTION 6.** Section 3 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

36 **SECTION 7.** Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2031.

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