

House Bill 3034

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Tina Kotek for Housing and Community Services Department)

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 changes the funding and use of a housing account. (Flesch Readability Score: 80.3).

Modifies the role of the Oregon Housing Stability Council in designing policy for Emergency Housing Account programs.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Emergency Housing Account; amending ORS 458.650.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 458.650 is amended to read:

5 458.650. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall administer the Emergency
6 Housing Account to assist homeless individuals and individuals who are at risk of becoming
7 homeless, through means including the emergency housing assistance program and the state
8 homeless assistance program. Notwithstanding subsection (3)(a) of this section, the state homeless
9 assistance program shall serve individuals experiencing homelessness, especially unsheltered
10 homelessness, without respect to income.

11 (2) The [*Oregon Housing Stability Council*] **department** shall develop a policy for the use of
12 program [*funds*] **moneys** with the advice of:

13 (a) Persons who have experienced housing instability;

14 (b) Tribes;

15 (c) The Community Action Partnership of Oregon;

16 (d) Continuums of care, as defined in 24 C.F.R. part 578;

17 (e) Local governments;

18 (f) Nonprofit organizations;

19 (g) Homeless services providers;

20 (h) Culturally specific organizations;

21 (i) Housing providers;

22 (j) Veterans' services organizations;

23 **(k) The Oregon Housing Stability Council;** and

24 [*(k)*] **(L)** Other entities identified by the department by rule.

25 (3) The policy under subsection (2) of this section shall direct that program funds [*shall*] **must**
26 be used:

27 (a) To provide to low and very low income individuals, including but not limited to individuals
28 more than 65 years of age, persons with disabilities, agricultural workers and Native Americans:

29 (A) Emergency shelters and attendant services;

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) Transitional housing services designed to assist individuals to make the transition from
 2 homelessness to permanent housing and economic independence;

3 (C) Supportive housing services to enable individuals to continue living in their own homes or
 4 to provide in-home services for such individuals for whom suitable programs do not exist in their
 5 geographic area;

6 (D) Programs that provide emergency payment of home payments, rents or utilities;

7 (E) Support for individuals with companion animals, as defined in ORS 401.977, that includes:

8 (i) Food for both companion animals and their owners;

9 (ii) Crates or kennels on-site or off-site that are easily accessible to the companion animal
 10 owners;

11 (iii) Basic veterinary services, including behavioral services; and

12 (iv) Rules of conduct and responsibility regarding companion animals and their owners; or

13 (F) Some or all of the services or assistance described in subparagraphs (A) to (E) of this para-
 14 graph.

15 (b) To provide the services and assistance described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to
 16 school-aged children enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12, or to their families, who are
 17 homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

18 (c) To align with federal strategies and resources that are available to prevent and end
 19 homelessness, including the requirement of providing culturally responsive services and using
 20 evidence-based and emerging practices effective in ending homelessness, including practices unique
 21 to rural communities.

22 (4)(a) The [*council shall require as a condition of awarding a grant that the organization demon-*
 23 *strate to the satisfaction of the*] department **may not award a grant under this section unless the**
 24 **organization demonstrates** that the organization:

25 (A) Has the capacity to deliver any service proposed by the organization;

26 (B) Is a culturally responsive organization or is engaged in a process to become a culturally
 27 responsive organization;

28 (C) Engages with culturally specific organizations; and

29 (D) Supports local homelessness system planning efforts.

30 (b) Any funds granted under this section may not be used to replace existing funds. Funds
 31 granted under this section may be used to supplement existing funds. An organization may use funds
 32 to support existing programs or to establish new programs.

33 (5) The department may expend funds from the account for:

34 (a) The administration of the account as provided for in the legislatively approved budget, as
 35 that term is defined in ORS 291.002, for the department in support of directing a statewide policy
 36 on homelessness that ensures use of evidence-based and emerging practices, service equity in fund-
 37 ing and local planning processes.

38 (b) The development of technical assistance and training resources for organizations developing
 39 and operating emergency shelters as defined in ORS 197.782 and transitional housing accommo-
 40 dations as described in ORS 197.746.

41 (6) The department shall utilize outcome-oriented contracting processes and evidence-based and
 42 emerging practices for account program funds, including evidence-based and emerging practices for
 43 serving rural communities.

44 (7) [*Twenty-five percent of moneys deposited in the account pursuant to ORS 294.187 are dedicated*
 45 *to the emergency housing assistance program*] **Of moneys deposited in the account pursuant to**

1 **ORS 294.187 (2)(b)(B), 25 percent are dedicated** for assistance to veterans who are homeless or
2 at risk of becoming homeless.

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