

A-Engrossed Senate Bill 31

Ordered by the Senate March 31
Including Senate Amendments dated March 31

Sponsored by Senator PATTERSON (Presession 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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act lets OHCS give grants to tenants whose public housing is terminated. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.9).

[Digest: The Act tells OHCS to study housing. (Flesch Readability Score: 90.9).]

[Requires the Housing and Community Services Department to study housing. Directs the department to submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to housing not later than September 15, 2026.]

Authorizes the Housing and Community Services Department to provide grants to support tenants of publicly supported housing when the housing's affordability restrictions are terminated. Establishes the Expiring Affordable Housing Tenant Support Fund. Appropriates moneys for deposit into the fund.

Declares an emergency, effective on July 1, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to housing; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 456.255 to 456.267.

SECTION 2. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department may award grants to housing authorities, community action agencies, culturally specific or culturally responsive organizations and other nonprofit organizations as the department may deem eligible, to provide assistance to tenants and their households whose housing is withdrawn from publicly supported housing.

(2) The department shall establish a process and criteria for soliciting, awarding and disbursing grants under this section, which must include that:

(a) Applications may not be accepted or reviewed until the department has received a first notice for the publicly supported housing under ORS 456.260 (1);

(b) An application must include the publicly supported housing's address, number of units and owner's name;

(c) The department may not award more than one grant to any applicant per publicly supported housing; and

(d) The grant award may not exceed three times the total monthly rent charged by the formerly publicly supported housing when subject to the affordability restrictions, plus the grant recipient's reasonable overhead and costs of grant administration.

(3) Moneys may not be distributed to grant award recipients before the publicly supported housing's termination date.

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 (4)(a) Grant award recipients may use grant moneys received under this section to pro-
2 vide direct financial assistance to tenants and their households who, on the termination date,
3 were living in the publicly supported housing.

4 (b) The financial assistance provided by the grantee to a household may not exceed three
5 times the total monthly rent last charged to the tenant by the formerly publicly supported
6 housing when subject to the affordability restrictions.

7 (c) A tenant and their household may use the financial assistance for:

8 (A) If remaining in the housing, increased rent following the termination of the
9 affordability restrictions, including during and after the period described in ORS 456.267 (1);
10 or

11 (B) If moving, the costs of moving, the first month's rent, security or rent deposits, costs
12 for utility transfer or connections, housing navigation services or other uses as established
13 by the department in order to maintain or secure housing for the tenant and their household.

14 (5) No later than five years following the award of grant moneys received under this
15 section, grant award recipients shall:

16 (a) Provide a report to the department accounting for how the moneys were spent and
17 the outcomes obtained; and

18 (b) Return any unspent moneys to the department for deposit into the Expiring Afford-
19 able Housing Tenant Support Fund established by section 3 of this 2025 Act.

20 SECTION 3. (1) The Expiring Affordable Housing Tenant Support Fund is established in
21 the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.

22 (2) The Expiring Affordable Housing Tenant Support Fund consists of moneys received
23 by the Housing and Community Services Department under section 2 (5) of this 2025 Act and
24 moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative As-
25 sembly or otherwise. Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

26 (3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department for the grant
27 program under section 2 of this 2025 Act.

28 SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
29 ated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July
30 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$6,000,000, for deposit into the Expiring Af-
31 fordable Housing Tenant Support Fund established by section 3 of this 2025 Act.

32 SECTION 5. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
33 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
34 July 1, 2025.