

Enrolled

Senate Bill 690

Sponsored by Senator REYNOLDS, Representatives GRAYBER, NERON, NELSON; Senators GELSER BLOUIN, MANNING JR, PATTERSON, Representatives ANDERSEN, CHOTZEN, FRAGALA, GAMBA, HARTMAN, HUDSON, LEVY E, MCLAIN, NGUYEN H, RIEKE SMITH, RUIZ, TRAN (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to perinatal public health; creating new provisions; amending ORS 105.136; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon ranks first in the nation for families with children experiencing unsheltered homelessness and there are additional Oregon children who experience severe housing insecurity; and

Whereas the number of families with children experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Oregon is 14 times higher than the national average and nearly three times higher than the next highest state; and

Whereas current varied methodologies for calculating and defining homelessness can lead to undercounting and can present barriers to families accessing resources; and

Whereas the population at highest risk of eviction in the United States is families with babies and toddlers who experience an eviction rate twice as high as adults without children; and

Whereas homelessness and housing insecurity for families with babies under one year old creates toxic stress for caregivers and interferes with early relational health affecting the brain growth of babies; and

Whereas adversity in the perinatal period leads to long-lasting effects on healthy social, emotional and cognitive development, increasing the likelihood of poor academic performance, worse health across the life course and homelessness into adulthood; and

Whereas providing stable housing for families with babies is necessary to maximize babies' brain development and their future success in learning, emotional regulation and overall health; and

Whereas further data reporting on the status of Oregon's rate of unsheltered homelessness among children is needed to allow the Legislative Assembly to determine the effectiveness of perinatal housing programs and to determine further actions; and

Whereas critical investments in keeping parents of infants stably housed is integral to preventing early childhood adverse experiences and to addressing social and structural determinants of health for Oregon's most vulnerable population; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 105.100 to 105.168.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, “health-related social needs housing supports” means housing supports approved for the demonstration project under 42 U.S.C. 1315 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(2) In an action for possession based on nonpayment, as defined in ORS 90.395, a defendant may move the court to reschedule the trial supported by a motion and declaration under penalty of perjury that the person:

(a) Is the parent of a child under 12 months of age who is living in the dwelling unit;

(b) Is a recipient of medical assistance, as defined in ORS 414.025;

(c) Was approved, on a date of approval specified in the declaration, by the Oregon Health Authority or a coordinated care organization, as defined in ORS 414.025, to receive health-related social needs housing supports; and

(d) Delivered documentation to the plaintiff as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) On or before filing a motion and declaration under subsection (2) of this section, the defendant shall deliver to the plaintiff a copy of an award letter or any other documentation showing approval for health-related social needs housing supports. The defendant may redact the names of any medical providers, Oregon Health Plan member identification numbers or other protected personal information, not including the defendant’s name or contact information, that appears in the documentation.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 105.137 (6), a court shall grant the motion and shall reschedule the trial to a date no sooner than 90 days and no later than 104 days from the date of the motion if:

(a) The motion and declaration under subsection (2) of this section are filed at least three judicial days prior to the date set for trial, unless good cause is shown; and

(b) The court finds that the requirements of subsection (2) of this section are met.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on September 28, 2027.

SECTION 4. ORS 105.136 is amended to read:

105.136. (1) The Judicial Department, in consultation with the Housing and Community Services Department, shall supply and may regularly update the notice required under ORS 90.395 (2) and 105.135 (2)(d). The notice must be in substantially the following form:

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE OF WHERE TO GET HELP IF YOU ARE FACING POTENTIAL EVICTION FOR NONPAYMENT.

For information in Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese or Chinese, go to the Judicial Department website at _____.

You must comply with deadlines identified in a notice of nonpayment, or you risk losing your housing.

Rental assistance and support services may be available. Dial 2-1-1 or go to www.211info.org or contact a local service provider at _____.

If you have a child under 1 year old living with you and you have been approved for rent assistance through Medicaid, you may be able to delay the eviction. See _____ for more information.

Low-income tenants may be able to receive free or low-cost legal advice by contacting a legal aid organization. Go to _____ to find an office near you.

The Oregon State Bar provides information about legal assistance programs at _____.

(2) The Judicial Department shall translate the completed form under subsection (1) of this section into the Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese languages and shall display links to the English and translated forms prominently on the department's website.

(3) Each form on the Judicial Department website under subsection (2) of this section must include a statement in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese indicating that the form and translations can be found on the Judicial Department website and providing the web address where the forms may be found.

SECTION 5. (1) Section 2 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 105.136 by section 4 of this 2025 Act become operative on September 1, 2025.

(2) The Judicial Department may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the Judicial Department to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the Judicial Department by section 2 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 105.136 by section 4 of this 2025 Act.

SECTION 6. ORS 105.136, as amended by section 4 of this 2025 Act, is amended to read:

105.136. (1) The Judicial Department, in consultation with the Housing and Community Services Department, shall supply and may regularly update the notice required under ORS 90.395 (2) and 105.135 (2)(d). The notice must be in substantially the following form:

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE OF WHERE TO GET HELP IF YOU ARE FACING POTENTIAL EVICTION FOR NONPAYMENT.

For information in Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese or Chinese, go to the Judicial Department website at _____.

You must comply with deadlines identified in a notice of nonpayment, or you risk losing your housing.

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[If you have a child under 1 year old living with you and you have been approved for rent assistance through Medicaid, you may be able to delay the eviction. See _____ for more information.]

Low-income tenants may be able to receive free or low-cost legal advice by contacting a legal aid organization. Go to _____ to find an office near you.

The Oregon State Bar provides information about legal assistance programs at _____.

(2) The Judicial Department shall translate the completed form under subsection (1) of this section into the Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese languages and shall display links to the English and translated forms prominently on the department's website.

(3) Each form on the Judicial Department website under subsection (2) of this section must include a statement in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese indicating that the form and translations can be found on the Judicial Department website and providing the web address where the forms may be found.

SECTION 7. The amendments to ORS 105.136 by section 6 of this 2025 Act become operative on September 28, 2027.

SECTION 8. Section 9 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 456.548 to 456.725.

SECTION 9. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall prioritize, whenever possible in the department's discretion, families with children under 12 months of age, in adopting rules or policies to implement or administer programs that serve to promote housing stabilization for people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

(2) On or before September 15 of each year, the department shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to housing on the rate of unsheltered homelessness among children in this state.

SECTION 10. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by Senate June 17, 2025

Received by Governor:

Repassed by Senate June 27, 2025

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Approved:

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Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

.....M.,....., 2025

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Passed by House June 26, 2025

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State