

Press Release

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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Extension of Eviction Moratorium, Support for Landlords and Tenants Passes Oregon House

Extension of eviction moratorium, restaurant relief among legislation

SALEM, Ore. – An extension of Oregon's eviction moratorium and a support package for tenants and small landlords passed the Oregon House of Representatives today.

House Bill 4401 extends the moratorium on residential evictions until June 30, 2021 for Oregonians who have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation also establishes a landlord compensation fund to cover rental assistance and allows Oregon Housing and Community Services to grant funds for additional rental assistance.

"We are now 10 days away from end of the current moratorium. But neither the COVID situation, nor the economic situation, have improved for many Oregonians," said Rep. Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene and Junction City), chair of the House Committee on Housing, who carried the legislation on the floor of the House. "My hope is that by taking these actions, we can prevent grievous harm to our state and give both tenants and landlords certainty and stability in the new year."

Earlier this year, Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order declaring the original eviction moratorium. In June, the Legislature extended, refined, and codified the moratorium which is now set to expire at the end of the year. According to research from the National Council of State Housing Agencies, as many as 56,000 Oregon households are at risk of eviction when the moratorium comes to end.

"At a time when we continue to deal with the impacts of COVID-19, we must do everything in our power to ensure people remain housed and safe," said Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland), chair of the House Committee on Human Services. "This is an issue that touches every part of Oregon and extends far beyond my district. Today's efforts are one small step in ensuring more people stay housed and healthy in the months to come."

Senate Bill 5731 allocates \$150 million in funding for the landlord compensation fund and \$50 million for rental assistance.

The legislation passed the House 39 to 15 and now goes to the Oregon Senate for consideration.