



OFFICIAL STATEMENT CHAIRS OF THE LEGISLATIVE HOUSING COMMITTEES

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Statement on Special Session from Chairs of the Legislature's Housing Committees

SALEM, OR - Today Governor Kate Brown announced that she is calling the Legislature to convene a special session on December 13, 2021.

In June, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 278 nearly unanimously to create a 60-day safe harbor for tenants who were waiting in line for rental assistance after the statewide eviction moratorium expired. But application processing times at many local community action agencies have been significantly longer than expected back in June.

This means more than 10,000 Oregon households are [at risk](#) of [timing out](#) of their safe harbor protections and [facing eviction](#) for nonpayment simply because of administrative delays in processing their applications. Other states facing this problem, like Minnesota and Nevada, have passed bipartisan legislation to create safe harbor policies for tenants with pending applications.

Additionally, nearly all federal rental assistance has been committed to tenants in need, even as the pandemic continues.

In response to these developments, [Representative Julie Fahey](#) (D-Eugene) and [Senator Kayse Jama](#) (D-Portland), the chairs of the legislature's housing committees, issued the following statement:

“No Oregonian should be evicted while rental assistance is on the way. A special session is the only way to prevent this. Thanks to Governor Brown, the legislature is officially on track to fulfill our promise to Oregon renters.

“After months of work, we have developed a proposal to extend the state's bipartisan safe harbor protections and provide additional funds for direct rent assistance that will benefit both tenants and housing providers. As we head into the holiday season and the coldest winter

months, this special session package will prevent heartbreaking evictions and support small housing providers who have made major sacrifices throughout the pandemic.”

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