



Senate Majority Office

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Oregon Senate Invests in Building Housing, Supporting Shelters, Rental Assistance

Budget also invests in wildfire recovery efforts around the state

SALEM, Ore. - Yesterday, the Oregon Senate passed [Senate Bill 5511](#) and [House Bill 3395](#). This legislation is a historic investment in housing for Oregonians.

SB 5511 is the budget bill for the Housing and Community Services Department, [a total budget of over \\$2.5 billion and 441 positions](#), which is a 28.5% increase from the current service level.

Some highlights of the budget are:

- \$136.8 million for wildfire recovery efforts, supported by a \$422 million federal grant.
- \$111.2 million for continuing shelter and rehousing services in response to the Governor's emergency declaration on homelessness.
- \$24.1 million for operating support to existing shelters.
- \$55 million for rental assistance.
- \$6 million for eviction prevention and tenant resources.
- \$7.5 million for down payment assistance.
- \$2.5 million for foreclosure avoidance counseling
- \$2.5 million for decommissioning and replacement of manufactured housing.
- \$9.7 million to establish a predevelopment loan program within the Department.
- Permanent funding for increased capacity in central services functions such as human resources, policy, communications, fiscal reporting, and information technology.

HB 3395 combines various housing-related policies into one bill and allocates a total of \$48.5 million from the General Fund to support the [projects included in the bill](#). The main provisions of the bill are:

- Flexibility in zoning regulations to accommodate residential areas and grants to local governments to assist with technical support.
- Funding to help low income college students access affordable housing options.

- Grants to develop housing projects that cater specifically to agricultural workers within local communities.
- Grants to cities, counties, and tribes to aid in housing and community development initiatives.
- Matching revolving loans fund for certain home buyers to increase the equity they can accrue.
- Funds are allocated to establish programs that guarantee loans for affordable housing projects.
- The bill widens the scope of the Emergency Housing Account to include support for individuals who have companion animals.

“I have seen firsthand the crisis of housing affordability in my community,” **said Senator Mark Meek (D - Gladstone)**. “This is a historic investment that will lower housing prices and put roofs over more Oregonians’ heads.”

“We are working towards a state where access to housing is a right, not a privilege,” **said Senator Kayse Jama (D - Portland)**, Chair of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development. “These investments are a critical step to meeting every Oregonians’ housing needs.”

“This housing package reflects our commitment to Oregonians, our commitment to delivering real, impactful solutions that will make a difference in people’s lives,” **said Senator Chris Gorsek (D - Troutdale)**. “We are building safe and affordable homes and fostering stronger communities built on compassion.”

“These bills will support all Oregonians, from renters to agricultural workers to first-time homebuyers to people without housing,” **said Senator Aaron Woods (D - Wilsonville), Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development that worked on this budget**. “These bills embody our values of resilience, stewardship, and long-term sustainability.”

Addressing homelessness and tackling housing affordability is part of [Senate Democrats’ 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

Senate Bill 5511 and House Bill 3395 are some of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, Senate Bill 5511 and House Bill 3395 now moves to the Oregon House and Governor’s desk for consideration respectively.

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