

Enrolled House Bill 3115

Sponsored by Representative KOTEK; Representatives DEXTER, MARSH, MCLAIN, POWER,
REYNOLDS, WILDE, Senators DEMBROW, MANNING JR, RILEY

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to the regulation of public property with respect to persons experiencing homelessness; and
declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “City or county law” does not include policies developed pursuant to ORS 203.077 or 203.079.

(b)(A) “Keeping warm and dry” means using measures necessary for an individual to survive outdoors given the environmental conditions.

(B) “Keeping warm and dry” does not include using any measure that involves fire or flame.

(c) “Public property” has the meaning given that term in ORS 131.705.

(2) Any city or county law that regulates the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness.

(3) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of violating a city or county law described in subsection (2) of this section that the law is not objectively reasonable.

(4) A person experiencing homelessness may bring suit for injunctive or declaratory relief to challenge the objective reasonableness of a city or county law described in subsection (2) of this section. The action must be brought in the circuit court of the county that enacted the law or of the county in which the city that enacted the law is located.

(5) For purposes of subsections (2) and (3) of this section, reasonableness shall be determined based on the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the impact of the law on persons experiencing homelessness.

(6) In any suit brought pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, the court, in its discretion, may award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff if the plaintiff:

(a) Was not seeking to vindicate an interest unique to the plaintiff; and

(b) At least 90 days before the action was filed, provided written notice to the governing body of the city or county that enacted the law being challenged of an intent to bring the action and the notice provided the governing body with actual notice of the basis upon which the plaintiff intends to challenge the law.

(7) Nothing in this section creates a private right of action for monetary damages for any person.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House April 15, 2021

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 9, 2021

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2021

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State