

Right to Rest Act HB 2367



February 23, 2021

The criminalization of homelessness harms our entire community: public funds are drained by security and "clean-up" initiatives that ultimately work to further entrench our most vulnerable into poverty. HB 2367 would ensure that all Oregonians have the right to exist in public space without the threat of harassment, citation, or arrest.

Out of 565 street outreach surveys conducted by the Western Regional Advocacy Project in Oregon, 88% of homeless people were harassed, cited or arrested for sleeping, 83% for sitting or lying down and 78% for loitering or "hanging out."

What does this bill do?

Homeless people are most often prosecuted for "crimes of survival," like sitting, lying down, or sleeping in public space. In order to protect them from discriminatory enforcement of laws that prevent rest, the Right to Rest Act would:

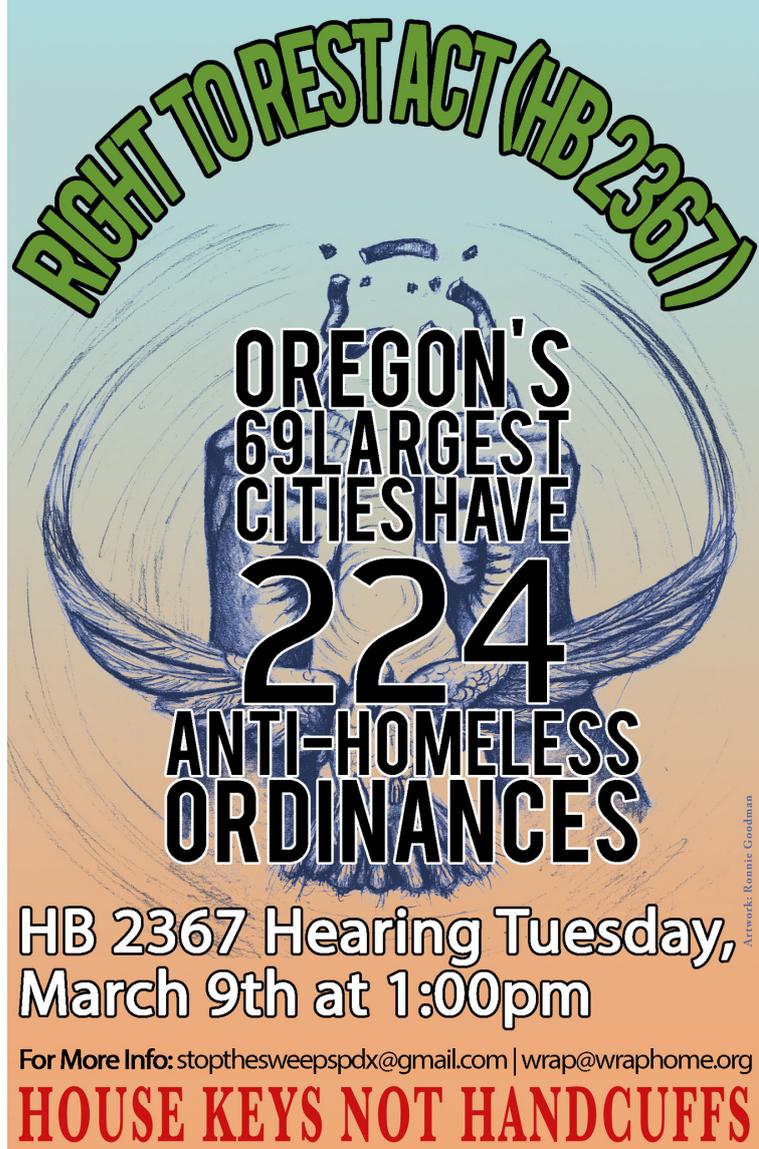
- Extend the privacy rights afforded to homeowners to homeless people, preventing the unlawful seizure and destruction of their possessions.
- Prohibit law enforcement, security personnel, or public employees from harassing, citing, or arresting homeless people for exercising the following rights:
 - To use and move freely in public spaces
 - To rest (sit, stand, and sleep)
 - To eat and share food
 - To pray
 - To occupy a legally parked vehicle
- Create an exception for public spaces that are closed, as long as adequate alternate spaces are provided for people to rest without time limitations.
- Provide a defense to civil and criminal charges when the basis for those charges is that the person was merely engaging in the protected activities listed above.
- Allow the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to enforce the protections of this bill in the same manner they use to enforce the protections of other non-discrimination laws and will allow private attorneys to advocate for homeless people in addition to BOLI's enforcement.

Questions? Contact: stopthesweepspd@gmail.com | wrap@wraphome.org

Why do we need this bill?

Ending the criminalization of homeless people is an essential component of ending homelessness in our communities. Rest is essential to everyone's health, well-being, and ability to function. The lack of rest resulting from constant harassment exacerbates and causes physical and mental health issues, so decriminalizing rest **must** be our first step toward truly supporting our most vulnerable.

Federal research confirms what many homeless community members already know: the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has clearly stated that successful responses to homelessness must include an end to criminalization practices, as well as the provision of housing and supportive services.



RIGHT TO REST ACT (HB 2367)

**OREGON'S
69 LARGEST
CITIES HAVE
224
ANTI-HOMELESS
ORDINANCES**

**HB 2367 Hearing Tuesday,
March 9th at 1:00pm**

For More Info: stopthesweepspdx@gmail.com | wrap@wraphome.org

HOUSE KEYS NOT HANDCUFFS

Artwork: Ronnie Goodman



The hearing for HB2367 is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 at 1:30 PM PST.



Sponsors:

Chief Sponsor Rep. Campos, Co-Sponsors Rep. Grayber and Rep. Pham

Endorsers:

Sisters of the Road, Right2Survive, Rural Organizing Project, Stop the Sweeps PDX, Western Regional Advocacy Project, ACLU of Oregon, Oregon Justice Resource Center

Supporting Materials:

[ACLU 2017 Report, "Decriminalizing Homelessness: Why Right to Rest is the High Road for Oregon"](#)

[The Right to Adequate Housing" from the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights](#)
[Portland homeless account for majority of police arrests, analysis finds](#)

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