Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Extends sunset on changes to temporary assistance for needy families program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 2055 extends the sunset on changes to the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program, authorizing DHS to continue several program restrictions for the 2013-15 biennium that are in place for 2011-13 but which would otherwise expire June 30, 2013 including:

- Allowing DHS to prescribe by rule the TANF up-front eligibility process by implementing a JOBS employability assessment, tying the assessment to receipt of aid, and providing services based on the assessment.
- Removing JOBS participation requirements for one-parent families with children under 2 except for volunteers.
- Closing Parents as Scholars program to new clients but allow plans in effect on 6/30/11 to continue.
- Denying aid based on a "job quit" period, which is modified to within 60 days of TANF application.
- Establishing an income eligibility limit equal to 185% of federal poverty guidelines for non-parent caretaker relatives of dependent children.
- Closure of Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) assistance for self-employed parents.
- Eliminating the reduced first month copayment for Employment Related Day Care assistance.

DHS estimates that passage of this bill will allow the TANF program to avoid an estimated \$22.2 million in General Fund expenditures for the 2013-15 biennium. If this bill does not pass, DHS could incur program costs as detailed below:

| Program | 2013-15 |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| TANF Up Front Eligibility | (3,079,764) |
| Parents as Scholars | (5,978,700) |
| TANF "Job Quit" Penalty | (910,234) |
| TANF Income Limit for Non-parent Caretaker Relatives | (6,838,272) |
| ERDC Self Employment Closure | (1,971,022) |
| ERDC Increased Co-Pay | (3,414,691) |
| Total General Fund Savings | (\$22,192,683) |