

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 225 - A

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Linda Ames, Laurie Byerly, Michelle Deister
Date: 3/11/2015

Measure Description:

Removes requirement for agency to send individual notice to each affected recipient of supplemental nutrition assistance when reduction, suspension or closure of grant of assistance is caused by change in benefit or standard by federal government and change affects all or significant portion of recipients.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Employment Department

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:

Senate Bill 225 specifies that the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) are not required to mail notices of intended action to each recipient when the federal government changes a benefit or standard that results in a suspension or closure of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The two agencies would only be required to publicize the change using news media, placing posters in offices that serve affected recipients, or mailing a general notice to the households of affected recipients. Note that with passage of this bill, OHA and DHS still must send individual notices if federal actions result in a reduction of SNAP and WIC benefits.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Passage of this bill would allow OHA and DHS to avoid potential costs. As an illustration of the potential cost avoidance, DHS offers this snapshot: In order to comply with existing state law to provide a 10-day individual notice when there is a federal mass change, in October 2013, during the federal government shutdown, Oregon prepared written notifications to recipients of SNAP benefits to inform them that the program was expected to end due to the shutdown. Although the federal government shutdown was resolved by November 2013, and DHS did not have to mail out the notices, DHS did spend approximately \$150,000 to prepare the notifications. With passage of this bill, if similar events occur, the state would avoid the expense of preparing and mailing individual notifications.

Oregon Employment Department

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have minimal impact on the Oregon Employment Department.