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

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Justice to develop training curriculum and provide training to public employees, community providers and others on confidentiality requirements, privacy laws and sharing of information in order to consistently facilitate sharing of information between programs and entities wherever feasible.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Justice

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

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:

The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a work group to study and develop a common comprehensive client confidentiality release form to be used by public bodies that provide health care services. DHS is directed to convene the work group as soon as possible after the effective date of the measure and shall develop the form by July 1, 2016. DHS is required to provide facilities and administrative support for meetings of the work group and report to the legislature in the 2016 session on the work group's progress. The measure has an emergency clause and is effective on passage.

While the measure identifies the entities to be represented on the work group, it is not specific regarding the numbers of members. DHS assumes approximately 53 participants representing public bodies and community organizations and to conduct bi-weekly meetings between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016. Based on these assumptions, DHS anticipates a minimal fiscal impact as a result of the work group.

The measure directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review state laws and statutes that could be modified to better facilitate communication between public bodies and community organizations engaged in health care services, and provide proposals for modifications for the 2017 legislative session. The measure will have a minimal fiscal impact to DOJ.