

HB 2626 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to include children up to 24 months old. Requires costs of the program for children older than six months to be paid using state funds.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Oregon is administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Federal grants through the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. WIC was established as a permanent program in 1974. WIC is not an entitlement program as Congress does not set aside funds to allow every eligible individual to participate in the program; WIC is a Federal grant program for which Congress authorizes a specific amount of funds each year.