

SB 795 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Fagan, Knopp, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies requirements for the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program (ODHHS). Requires ODHHS to cooperate with the Employment Department to study ways to eliminate unemployment and underemployment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; to cooperate with the Department of Education and educational institutions to promote programs designed to increase the number of qualified providers of communication or accommodation services; and to develop and recommend uniform statewide standards to certify providers of communication or accommodation services. Directs ODHHS to study and report to the Department of Human Services (DHS) on the development of assistive technologies and to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly to improve access and accessibility for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Requires that a majority of members of the ODHHS advisory committee be deaf or hard of hearing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of access to services and resources for deaf and hard of hearing community

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires DHS to consult with advisory committee to prioritize services. Authorizes DHS to adopt rules.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services' Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program (ODHHS) is a resource for all Oregonians, aimed at improving the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people and their families. ODHHS coordinates requests for sign language interpreter/real-time captioner services. In 2016, ODHHS issued the "Community-Based Needs Assessment of Oregon's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities" that included 12 findings for consideration to improve services for Oregon's deaf and hard of hearing communities. The Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee (ODHHAC) assists ODHHS by providing information and expertise on issues affecting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Senate Bill 795-A clarifies and expands the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Program.