

HB 2032 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/03/19

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Helt, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

Exc: 1 - Keny-Guyer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules specifying qualifications for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Eliminates certain qualification requirements. Directs DHS to provide aid to a family when the family becomes ineligible for TANF because of increased work hours, for 12 consecutive months or until the household income exceeds 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, whichever occurs first. Adds hearing rights. Creates operative date of 2021 for section 3. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Bill reportedly brings greater flexibility for TANF participants
- Broadening of TANF to align with a person-centered approach
- Need for amendment to fix technical issues

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes operative date of section 3 from 2019 to 2021. Modifies definition of "aid."

BACKGROUND:

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while they strive to become self-sufficient. Cash assistance is intended to help meet a family's basic needs for items such as food, clothing, shelter, and utilities. Most cash benefits in Oregon are issued via an Electronic Benefit Transfer card. This is also known as the Oregon Trail Card. Aid includes services through the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills program (JOBS). Most people who receive TANF benefits are required to participate in the JOBS program.

House Bill 2032-A directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules specifying qualifications for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.