

HB 2952 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/17/21

Action: Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to allocate to area agencies for mental and behavioral health treatments and pandemic resources for seniors. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- "Staying home and staying safe" campaign in light of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression in older adults
- Funding and other barriers to behavioral health access for older adults

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nearly 37 percent of people living in Oregon are older than 50 years of age. Seniors have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and have unique mental and behavioral health needs.

House Bill 2952 appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to allocate to area agencies specifically to address the mental and behavioral health needs of seniors and the needs of seniors affected by the pandemic.