

## HB 2964 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services

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**Action Date:** 04/05/21

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

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

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

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/10, 3/17, 4/5

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to reimburse the cost of care provided to medical assistance recipients by direct support professionals at wages that average at least 150 percent of the minimum wage, adjusted for inflation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Establishing rates for reimbursement based on location and patient needs

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Directs the Department of Human Services to reimburse provider agencies for the cost of care provided.

#### BACKGROUND:

Direct support professionals are privately employed individuals who support adults and children experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. The average hourly wage for a direct support professional in the United States is \$15 as of January 29, 2021, but the wage range typically falls between \$13 and \$16 per hour.

House Bill 2964 A directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to reimburse provider agencies for the cost of paying direct support professionals for certain facilities at wages that are at least 150 percent of the minimum wage and to adjust the wages for inflation.