

HB 2107 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Taylor

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Action Date: 04/27/21

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Anderson, Gelser, Lieber, Robinson, Taylor

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/20, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Includes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) among entities that county supervisory authorities must notify when a defendant is committed into their custody, for purposes of suspending public benefits during incarceration. Specifies that notices of garnishments issued by OHA and DHS need not be signed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Preventing avoidable overpayment of public benefits
- Preventing corresponding cost of efforts to recover overpayments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, when an individual is sentenced to serve a jail term in a criminal matter, they are committed to the relevant county supervising authority, and that authority notifies the Oregon Employment Department (OED) for purposes of unemployment insurance eligibility determinations. The supervisory authority is required to provide OED with the defendant's name, Social Security number and date of birth.

House Bill 2107 requires county supervisory authorities to provide the same information to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), so that publicly funded assistance may be suspended during the period of a defendant's incarceration, in order to prevent overpayments that the state must later attempt to recover. The measure also provides that notices of garnishment for overpayment of public benefits that issue from DHS and OHA need not be signed, the same as overpayment notices that issue from the Department of Revenue (DOR).