

House Bill 2964

Sponsored by Representative NOSSE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Human Services to reimburse cost of care provided in residential training facilities and residential training homes in amounts sufficient to allow facilities and homes to pay direct support professional 150 percent of state minimum wage.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to direct support professionals; and declaring an emergency.

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3 Whereas direct support professionals provide crucial supports to adults and children experienc-
4 ing intellectual and developmental disabilities, including managing medical needs, challenging be-
5 haviors, personal hygiene and supporting the adults in maintaining employment and making real
6 connections in the community; and

7 Whereas the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that direct support professionals are more val-
8 uable than ever yet continue to struggle with low wages, threatening their economic security and
9 job stability; and

10 Whereas direct support professionals have been on the front line of the COVID-10 crisis, as es-
11 sential as ever, and they deserve a significant investment in their jobs in 2021; and

12 Whereas national data shows that direct support professionals are a growing and diverse
13 workforce in which 87 percent are women, 59 percent are people of color and 27 percent are immi-
14 grants; and

15 Whereas direct support professionals face persistently low wages without inflation adjusted in-
16 creases and many receive wages that are at or slightly above the state minimum wage; and

17 Whereas the incredibly dedicated direct support professionals are not state employees, though
18 they are funded almost entirely by state moneys, and need a significant investment by the Legisla-
19 tive Assembly so they can continue to provide support to Oregonians experiencing intellectual and
20 developmental disabilities; now, therefore,

21 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

22 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

23 (a) **“Direct support professional” means an employee of a residential training facility or**
24 **a residential training home that provides care and support to the residents of the facility or**
25 **home.**

26 (b) **“Medical assistance” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.**

27 (c) **“Residential training facility” and “residential training home” have the meaning given**
28 **those terms in ORS 443.400.**

29 (2) **The Department of Human Services shall reimburse residential training facilities and**
30 **residential training homes for the cost of care provided to medical assistance recipients in**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 amounts sufficient to allow the facilities and homes to pay to their direct support profes-
2 sionals wages that average at least 150 percent of the minimum wage established in ORS
3 653.025 (2) as adjusted for inflation under ORS 653.025 (5).

4 SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
5 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
6 on its passage.

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