



*Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing*

## **HB 2397 Bill Summary**

**1. HB 2397 ensures that the existing state and federal regulatory system for long-term care providers is preserved.**

**Current state and federal regulations are robust.** The care and services provided by long term care providers is extensively regulated by the state and federal government, including the Oregon Department of Human Services, Adult and Protective Services, the state ombudsman, and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

**Regulations are Enforced by Experts.** The state and federal regulations are designed to protect the safety and welfare of residents and are actively enforced by professionals in long term care, including regular license surveys and complaint investigations. Care providers must maintain regulatory compliance and are subject to a comprehensive set of fines and conditions for non-compliance. Local governments currently lack personnel with this expertise and would need to make substantial financial investments in oversight personnel.

**Regulatory Changes Are Made in an Open and Transparent Process.** Whenever the legislature or oversight agencies propose regulatory changes, there is an opportunity for public comment and engagement by stakeholders. Processes vary by city, and in recent experience, stakeholders and subject-matter experts were not included by the local government in drafting the local regulatory ordinance.

**Voters Overwhelmingly Rejected A Local Ordinance.** The only local ordinance to establish long term care regulations was overturned overwhelmingly by city voters in November 2019.

**2. House Bill 2397 establishes the Emergency Medical Services Innovation Pilot Program to improve fire department responses to the residents of long term care settings.**

Many communities across the state are already implementing proactive programs to improve service to seniors and reducing unnecessary trips to the emergency room particularly in the wake of COVID-19. Other jurisdictions would like to implement solutions for their communities,

and this pilot will help empower them to do so. It will also demonstrate the value these programs can have for all emergency response jurisdictions in Oregon.

This pilot program will be established in ODHS. It will review applications from local governments/fire districts and award funds to innovative projects that will improve the services from EMS to seniors residing in long term care settings.

The program will be guided by an advisory council and staffed by the EMS Coordinator at ODHS. The funds will be appropriated from the Quality Fund at ODHS.