

**SB 796 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Prepared By:** Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes the “Oregon Memory Net” to allow primary care providers to refer patients who show signs of cognitive decline or impairment to a memory assessment clinic. Directs the Oregon Department of Human Services to contract with Oregon’s designated Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center to subcontract with a memory assessment clinic outside of the Portland metropolitan area. Appropriates funds. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Alzheimer’s disease is a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. People with Alzheimer’s also experience changes in behavior and personality. According to the National Institute on Aging, more than 6 million Americans, many of them age 65 and older, are estimated to have Alzheimer’s disease. The National Alzheimer’s Association reports approximately 69,000 Oregonians aged 65 and older are living with the disease (2020).

The Portland campus of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) is home to Oregon’s federally funded Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center. The Center applies research to improve diagnosis and care for people with Alzheimer’s.

SB 589 directs the Oregon Department of Human Services and the OHSU Alzheimer Disease Research Center to subcontract with a memory assessment clinic outside of the Portland area.