

SB 576 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Direct the Department of Human Services to administer a program to provide medical assistance to employed individuals with disabilities who qualify for Medicaid and prohibits DHS to determine eligibility based on an individual's income, resources, or age. Requires DHS to seek federal approval to determine an individual's eligibility for medical assistance without regard to earnings accumulated in a separate account during their participation in said program.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Workers with disabilities income and asset eligibility for Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD)
- State of Washington model for paying workers with disabilities and elimination of income and asset limits
- Disability inclusion in the work place and increasing job opportunities for individuals with disabilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires Department of Human Services to put program to provide medical assistance to employed individuals with disabilities in operation by July 1, 2025. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

The Supplemental Security Income program provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income and resources below specific financial limits (less than \$1,913 per month in wages or self-employment for an individual and less than \$2,827 for a couple; less than \$934 income from pensions or gifts per month for an individual and less than \$1,391 for a couple). Oregon Health Plan eligibility is determined based on several factors, including income. The maximum monthly income for an adult is \$1,507 or \$2,004 for a couple. The Employed Persons with Disabilities program provides or continues medical coverage and long-term services to people with disabilities who are working or want to work. To qualify for the program, individuals need to have countable resources of \$5,000 or less and earned income of no more than 250 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of one after allowed deductions.

Senate Bill 576 would establish a program run by the Department of Human Services that would provide medical assistance to employed individuals with disabilities who qualify for Medicaid without considering their income, resources, or age.