

SB 99 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services to study processes for delivering services to aging adults and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Establishes the Commission on LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults and specifies its mission, duties and membership, member term of office, and membership eligibility. Allows members to be receive compensation and expense reimbursement. Specifies leadership positions and duties, meeting schedule, and types of meetings permitted. Requires the commission to report on the commission's activities, findings and recommendations by June 30 of even-numbered years. Permits the commission to establish any advisory or technical committees necessary to aid and advise in the performance of its functions. Permits the commission to solicit and receive funds from grants and gifts from any source.

Establishes the Bill of Rights for LGBTQIA2S+ older adult residents of long term care facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Formal and informal support systems become increasingly important to maintain independence as people age and older adults are the fastest growing segment of the [US population](#). Older adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) frequently [face barriers when attempting to access health and social services](#). In 2016, about 69 percent of the US population 85 and over had at least one type of disability, compared with just 9 percent of the population under the age of 65 (The Population 65 Years and Older in the United States: 2016, [American Community Survey Reports](#)). In 26 Oregon counties, 37.0 - 45.9 Percent of the population Aged 65 and over has a Disability ([2013-2017 Census data](#)) and in 4 counties that percent was over 46. In Oregon, about 32 percent of the population in 2021 was 65 years old or older and had a disability, and about 3.4 percent of Oregonians aged 55 and older identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual, which includes 3.2 percent of women and 3.8 percent of men([2021 Oregon LGBTQ+ older adult report](#)). The [Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey](#) was conducted in 2021 and found that 50% of people aged 55+ who identify as LGBTQ+ have [service needs that are not met](#). The most common challenges reported in accessing services included difficulty in applying or fear of not meeting qualifications, high costs, services experienced or perceived as not being LGBTQ+ inclusive, and lack of availability and difficulty locating and accessing services.

Senate Bill 92 establishes the Commission on LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults and the Bill of Rights for LGBTQIA2S+ older adult residents of long term care facilities.