

HB 2589 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/15, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine number of full-time employees necessary to process health assessments for enrollment in programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) in fewer than 20 days. Requires DHS to request sufficient resources for necessary staffing level to process assessments in biennial agency request budget. Appropriates unspecified moneys from General Fund to hire 15 full-time employees to enhance health assessment processing. 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:

- Characteristics of Medicare PACE program
- Comprehensive health needs of elderly individuals
- Federal regulations
- Current availability of PACE in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies preamble. Removes provisions relating to DHS staffing level and budget request process. Removes fiscal appropriation. Directs DHS to conduct wage study of case workers who perform enrollment and eligibility services for PACE program by December 31, 2023. Directs DHS to conduct workforce study to determine sufficient staffing of case workers to process eligibility determinations for PACE within 45-day window by December 31, 2023. Directs DHS to report to interim legislative committees by January 15, 2024.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

BACKGROUND:

Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a model of service delivery that provides comprehensive health services for older adults. Individuals covered under PACE receive medically necessary and long-term care services through a single provider entity. Under this model, an interdisciplinary team of health professionals work with the individual to coordinate a plan for health services that are covered by Medicare and Medicaid, enabling the individual to live in their community rather than at a nursing home. PACE services are currently available in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Clatsop, Tillamook, Jackson, and Josephine counties. Enrollment in PACE is processed by the Aging and People with Disabilities division of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

House Bill 2589 requires DHS to determine the staffing level necessary to process PACE enrollment assessments in fewer than 20 days and to request the necessary staffing resources in its biennial agency request budget. The measure also appropriates an unspecified amount of General Fund dollars to hire 15 full-time equivalent employees to implement the enhanced processing timeline.