

HB 2500 -6, -7 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: 1/25, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Home Care Commission to adopt rules that require reimbursement of mileage expenses for home care workers, personal support workers, and other direct support professionals who commute more than 15 miles each way from their residences to those of their clients. Provides that mileage reimbursement be subject to collective bargaining agreement. Requires that commission include mileage reimbursement as required compensation for specified workers.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact on rural home care workers
- Availability of services in rural parts of the state
- Benefits extended to various types of care professionals
- Types of services eligible for Medicaid reimbursement

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Replaces the measure. Directs Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules to require payment of mileage reimbursement to home care workers, personal support workers, and personal care attendants who provide home care services for individuals who live in remote locations that are 25 or more miles from an available provider. Requires that rules include process by which individuals receiving services apply to department for mileage reimbursement and demonstrate that their needs cannot be met by a nearby provider despite their attempts to find such a provider. Provides that reimbursement must be at the state reimbursement rate and is subject to collective bargaining agreement. Modifies responsibilities of Home Care Commission to require establishment of payment rates for all home care workers and personal support workers and payment of state-funded mileage reimbursement to home care workers and support workers who provide services to individuals in remote locations. Allows in-home care agency to request approval from OHA to provide required training for its employees. Requires OHA to approve request if training meets certain conditions. Directs OHA to establish process for in-home care agencies to submit requests to provide training and specifies requirements for applications. Requires OHA to approve or deny request within 90 days of receipt.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

-7 Replaces the measure. Allows in-home care agency to request approval from OHA to provide required training for its employees. Requires OHA to approve request if training meets certain conditions. Directs OHA to establish process for in-home care agencies to submit requests to provide training and specifies requirements for applications. Requires OHA to approve or deny request within 90 days of receipt.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

BACKGROUND:

The Home Care Commission is a constitutionally mandated, independent public commission, established by the passage of Measure 99 (2000), that is responsible for overseeing the statewide provision of in-home care services for elderly adults and people with disabilities. The commission, acting through the Department of Human Services, regulates minimum qualification standards, provides training opportunities, and maintains a centralized registry of qualified in-home care workers. Current law requires the commission to operate a program that allows individuals through the registry, to hire the services of in-home care workers who are employed and paid by the commission. The program sets standard payment rates for workers and charges consumers for the cost of employing the workers and administering the program.

House Bill 2500 requires the Home Care Commission to provide mileage reimbursement for home care workers, personal support workers, and other direct support professionals employed by the commission who travel more than 15 miles each way between their residences and those of their clients.