

## HB 2500 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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**Action Date:** 04/03/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Andersen, Cramer, Elmer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 1/25, 4/3

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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 DHS 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.

#### 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:

Replaces the measure.

#### 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 (DHS), 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.

## **HB 2500 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

House Bill 2500 A requires DHS, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Home Care Commission to develop processes for home care workers, personal support workers, and personal care attendants to receive mileage reimbursement when working in homes that are 25 miles or more from an available provider.