

House Bill 2589

Sponsored by Representatives MORGAN, GOODWIN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Human Services to determine staffing levels needed to complete assessments within 20 days for individuals seeking enrollment in programs for all-inclusive care for elderly, and to submit agency request budget each biennium that reflects resources needed to meet determined staffing levels.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for hiring 15 additional full-time staff to conduct assessments.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas as a result of insufficient staffing levels, employees of the Department of Human Ser-
4 vices who conduct assessments for individuals seeking enrollment in programs of all-inclusive care
5 for the elderly (PACE programs) are overworked and are taking, on average, 40 to 45 days to com-
6 plete the assessments; and

7 Whereas as a result of the delays in completing assessments, medically fragile individuals seek-
8 ing enrollment in PACE programs are denied needed intensive care and wrap-around services and,
9 while the assessments are pending, cannot be discharged from hospitals and skilled nursing facilities;
10 and

11 Whereas the delays in discharging medically fragile individuals from hospitals and skilled nurs-
12 ing facilities has limited the capacity of hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to accept new pa-
13 tients; and

14 Whereas adding more staff to conduct assessments for PACE programs will shorten the pro-
15 cessing times for enrollment in PACE programs benefiting PACE program participants and individ-
16 uals in need of inpatient hospital and skilled nursing facility care; now, therefore,

17 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

18 **(a) "Assessment" means an assessment of an individual's health status and a determi-**
19 **nation of whether the individual needs the level of care required for enrollment in a PACE**
20 **program.**

21 **(b) "PACE program" means a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly as described**
22 **in 42 U.S.C. 1396u-4.**

23 **(2) Each biennium, the Department of Human Services shall determine the number of**
24 **full-time staff needed to ensure that each assessment can be completed no later than 20 days**
25 **after the date the assessment is requested.**

26 **(3) The department's agency request budget, submitted to the Oregon Department of**
27 **Administrative Services in accordance with ORS 291.201 to 291.222, shall include a request for**
28

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 resources sufficient to meet the staffing levels determined under subsection (2) of this sec-
2 tion.

3 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
4 ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of
5 the General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which shall be expended to hire 15 full-time em-
6 ployees to enable the department to complete assessments, as defined in section 1 of this
7 2023 Act, in the timeline described in section 1 (2) of this 2023 Act.

8 **SECTION 3.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
9 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
10 July 1, 2023.

11 _____