

# Senate Bill 241

Sponsored by Senator THATCHER (at the request of Representative Kevin Mannix) (Presession 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 state agency or local government, before providing assistance or benefits to residents of this state who do not have regular access to, or face barriers in attaining, shelter or housing, employment, health care, child care, food, clothing or other basic necessities to fully inform resident of assistance or benefits available from funded federal programs and require resident to apply for or enroll in federal program of assistance or benefits.

Specifies requirements for fully informing residents of federal programs of assistance or benefits.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to informing residents of this state about available federal programs of assistance.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** (1) **A state agency or a local government, as defined in ORS 174.116, that**  
4 **provides monetary assistance or benefits of any type to residents of this state who do not**  
5 **have regular access to, or face barriers in attaining, shelter or housing, employment, health**  
6 **care, child care, food, clothing or other basic necessities, shall before providing the assist-**  
7 **ance or benefits through a program that uses resources from this state, including any**  
8 **moneys paid directly or indirectly from the State Treasury:**

9 (a) **Fully inform a resident who applies to the state agency or local government for the**  
10 **assistance or benefits about similar or related assistance or benefits available from funded**  
11 **federal programs; and**

12 (b) **Require the resident to apply for or enroll in a federal program of assistance or ben-**  
13 **efits, if the resident is eligible for the federal program and the assistance or benefits are**  
14 **similar to the assistance or benefits the state agency or local government provides.**

15 (2)(a) **For the purposes of this section, a state agency or local government fully informs**  
16 **a resident of this state about available federal assistance or benefits if the state agency or**  
17 **local government:**

18 (A) **Provides written or oral information about the federal assistance or benefits to the**  
19 **resident, including an explanation or summary of the requirements of this section and of the**  
20 **assistance and benefits available through the federal program;**

21 (B) **Directs the resident to and provides contact information for the federal agency or**  
22 **program that provides the assistance or benefits; and**

23 (C) **Answers questions from the resident concerning:**

24 (i) **Applications, enrollment or eligibility for the federal assistance or benefits to the ex-**  
25 **tent that sufficient information to answer the resident's questions about the federal assist-**  
26 **ance or benefits is available to the state agency or local government;**

27 (ii) **Any relationship between the assistance and benefits available from the federal pro-**  
28 **gram and assistance and benefits available from the state agency or local government and**  
29

**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 any effects that receiving assistance and benefits from the federal program will have on the  
2 resident's eligibility for assistance and benefits from the state agency or local government;  
3 and

4 (iii) Any other question that is reasonably related to the resident's eligibility for assist-  
5 ance and benefits, to the extent that sufficient information is available to the state agency  
6 or local government to answer the resident's question.

7 (b) To the extent necessary to communicate with a resident who has limited proficiency  
8 in English, the state agency or local government shall fully inform the resident about avail-  
9 able programs of federal assistance and benefits as provided in paragraph (a) of this sub-  
10 section in the language the resident primarily uses for spoken or written communication, if  
11 the resident's language is one of the five most commonly spoken languages in this state that  
12 the Secretary of State lists under ORS 251.167.

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