

**Minority Report**  
**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 99**

Ordered by the Senate April 11  
Including Senate Minority Report Amendments dated April 11

Sponsored by nonconcurring members of the Senate Committee on Human Services: Senators ROBINSON, WEBER

**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.

*[Requires Department of Human Services to study department's processes for delivering services to aging adults. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to human services not later than September 15, 2024.]*

*[Sunsets January 2, 2025.]*

**Establishes Commission on Older Adults on Fixed Incomes Who Are Affected by Inflation. Specifies membership and duties.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to aging adults.

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

**COMMISSION ON OLDER ADULTS ON FIXED INCOMES WHO ARE  
AFFECTED BY INFLATION**

**SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation" means adult residents of the United States who are over 62 years of age receiving Social Security benefits.**

**(2) The Commission on Older Adults on Fixed Incomes Who Are Affected by Inflation is established. The legislative intent of the commission is to:**

**(a) Work to improve state agency interactions and communication with, and support of, older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation;**

**(b) Create advocacy opportunities for, and support equity for, older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation throughout state government; and**

**(c) Find strategies to help older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation to become aware of state and federal programs that offer assistance to individuals on fixed incomes.**

**(3) The Commission on Older Adults on Fixed Incomes Who Are Affected by Inflation consists of 12 members as follows:**

**(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one nonvoting member from among members of the Senate.**

**(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one nonvoting member**

**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 from among members of the House of Representatives.

2 (c) The Director of the Housing and Community Services Department.

3 (d) The Governor shall appoint nine members after requesting and considering recom-  
4 mendations from the Department of Human Services, area agencies, as defined in ORS  
5 410.040, organizations that work with or advocate for older adults on fixed incomes who are  
6 affected by inflation, organizations that work with or advocate for long term care facilities,  
7 as defined in ORS 442.015, and other interested organizations with experience in serving older  
8 adults.

9 (4) The members of the commission who are appointed by the Governor must:

10 (a) Be residents of this state;

11 (b) Have knowledge or experience in one or more of the following:

12 (A) Housing;

13 (B) Health care;

14 (C) Long term services and supports;

15 (D) Dementia;

16 (E) Human immunodeficiency virus;

17 (F) Mental health;

18 (G) Adult protective services;

19 (H) Elder law, as a member of the Oregon State Bar; or

20 (I) A public or private agency that has experience with or knowledge of, or that advo-  
21 cates for the needs of, older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation;

22 (c) Include a majority of at least three members who identify as an older adult on fixed  
23 income who is affected by inflation;

24 (d) Be supportive of the legislative intent of the commission described in subsection (2)  
25 of this section; and

26 (e) Be confirmed by the Senate in the manner prescribed in ORS 171.562 and 171.565.

27 (5) The term of office of each member of the commission appointed by the Governor is  
28 four years, but a member serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Before the expiration of  
29 the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a successor whose term begins on January  
30 1 next following. A member is eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause,  
31 the Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired  
32 term.

33 (6) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the commission are entitled to  
34 payment of compensation and expense reimbursement under ORS 171.072, payable from funds  
35 appropriated to the Legislative Assembly.

36 (7) A member of the commission who is appointed by the Governor is entitled to com-  
37 pensation and expenses as provided in ORS 292.495.

38 (8) The commission shall select one of its members as chairperson and another as vice  
39 chairperson, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the  
40 functions of the offices as the commission determines.

41 (9) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the  
42 transaction of business.

43 (10) The commission shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chair-  
44 person or of a majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall meet at  
45 least once every three months. The commission may also hold fact-finding hearings or other

1 public forums as it deems necessary.

2 (11) The commission shall:

3 (a) Advise the Governor and the Director of Human Services, or the director's designee,  
4 on the needs of older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation.

5 (b) Recommend actions by the Governor, the Department of Human Services, other  
6 governmental entities or the private sector to address the needs of older adults on fixed in-  
7 comes who are affected by inflation by:

8 (A) Coordinating programs for older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by in-  
9 flation;

10 (B) Avoiding unnecessary duplication of services; and

11 (C) Identifying gaps in the provision of services.

12 (c) Examine the impact of state policies and rules on older adults on fixed incomes who  
13 are affected by inflation and make recommendations to ensure equal access to treatment,  
14 care and benefits.

15 (d) Assess the funding and programming needed to provide services to the growing pop-  
16 ulation of older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation.

17 (e) Identify best practices for:

18 (A) Reducing isolation and preventing abuse and exploitation of, and promoting the in-  
19 dependence and self-determination of, older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by in-  
20 flation;

21 (B) Strengthening caregiving;

22 (C) Eliminating disparities; and

23 (D) Improving the quality of life for older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by  
24 inflation.

25 (f) Assess whether any policy or practice, or the absence of any policy or practice, pro-  
26 motes the premature admission of older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation  
27 to institutional care.

28 (g) Make recommendations, if appropriate and necessary, for lower cost and culturally  
29 appropriate home- and community-based alternatives to institutional care.

30 (h) Examine strategies for increasing providers' awareness of the needs of older adults  
31 on fixed incomes who are affected by inflation and their caregivers and for improving the  
32 competence of providers in addressing the needs of older adults on fixed incomes who are  
33 affected by inflation and in improving access to treatment, services and ongoing care, in-  
34 cluding preventive care.

35 (i) Examine the feasibility of developing publicly accessible statewide training curricula  
36 to improve the competency of health care and human services providers in delivering health,  
37 housing and long term support services to older adults on fixed incomes who are affected by  
38 inflation and their caregivers.

39 (j) Examine outreach protocols to reduce the apprehension of older adults on fixed in-  
40 comes who are affected by inflation in utilizing long term care providers that do not have a  
41 particular mission, skill set, training or culture to specifically support older adults on fixed  
42 incomes who are affected by inflation.

43 (12) In developing its recommendations under subsection (11) of this section, the com-  
44 mission shall consider best policies and practices used in other states and jurisdictions.

45 (13) No later than June 30 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit a

1 report on the commission's activities, findings and recommendations, in the manner provided  
2 in ORS 192.245, to:

- 3 (a) The Governor;
- 4 (b) The Department of Human Services;
- 5 (c) The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives;
- 6 (d) The Secretary of the Senate; and
- 7 (e) The interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services.

8 (14)(a) The commission shall appoint a director to serve at the pleasure of the commis-  
9 sion.

10 (b) The designation of the director must be by written order, filed with the Secretary of  
11 State.

12 (c) Subject to any applicable provisions of ORS chapter 240, the director shall appoint all  
13 subordinate officers and employees of the commission, prescribe their duties and fix their  
14 compensation.

15 (15)(a) The commission may establish any advisory or technical committees the com-  
16 mission considers necessary to aid and advise the commission in the performance of its  
17 functions. The committees may be continuing or temporary.

18 (b) The commission shall determine the representation, membership, terms and organ-  
19 ization of the committees and shall appoint the members of the committees.

20 (c) Members of the advisory or technical committees are not entitled to compensation,  
21 but in the discretion of the commission may be reimbursed from funds available to the  
22 commission for actual and necessary travel and other expenses reasonably incurred by the  
23 committee members in the performance of their official duties in the manner and amount  
24 provided in ORS 292.495.

25 (16)(a) The commission may solicit and receive funds from grants and gifts from any  
26 source, public or private, to assist and support the commission's duties.

27 (b) All moneys collected or received by the commission shall be paid into the General  
28 Fund of the State Treasury and are continuously appropriated for and shall be used by the  
29 commission in carrying out the purposes for which the funds are received.

30 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 1 of this 2023 Act,  
31 of the members first appointed to the Commission on Older Adults on Fixed Incomes Who  
32 Are Affected by Inflation by the Governor:

- 33 (1) Three shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2025.
- 34 (2) Three shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2026.
- 35 (3) Three shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2027.

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