

Legislative Fiscal Office

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-986-1828



Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Representative Tawna Sanchez, House Co-Chair

Senator Fred Girod, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Representative David Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Representative Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: Capital Construction Subcommittee

From: Gregory Jolivette, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: March 6, 2024

Subject: SB 1521 – Relating to care for vulnerable individuals
Work Session Recommendations

SB 1521 is an omnibus measure that makes changes to statutory provisions related to care for vulnerable individuals. It has the following major provisions:

- Authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to contract with one or more organizations to provide enhanced services and supports to employers of personal support workers and requires at least one such contract to be in place by July 1, 2024.
- Requires DHS to adopt rules related to minimum qualifications for organizations endorsed to deliver agency with choice (AWC) services and requires DHS to contract with at least one such organization no later than January 1, 2026.
- Prohibits agencies that employ direct support workers from engaging in certain practices, such as offering prizes or other forms of consideration to direct support staff or clients in exchange for agreement to work with the agency.
- Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to hire one additional position to investigate Medicaid fraud and abuse and take enforcement actions.
- Extends the exemption from automatic sprinklers in adult foster care homes to licenses issued prior to July 1, 2026.
- Defines “placement safety and crisis supports” and provides that DHS may only contract for placement safety and crisis supports if the services will be provided by a licensed child-caring agency, except that certain unlicensed child caring agencies may continue to provide these services through December 31, 2024. The -A12 amendment removes this provision.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the –A12, which removes child welfare-related provisions from the A-grossed version of the measure.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A12 amendment to SB 1521. (VOTE)

LFO additionally recommends adoption of the -A14 amendment, which adds funding to carry out the bill's provisions.

- For DHS, it appropriates \$87,435 General Fund, adjusts Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$87,435, and authorizes three permanent positions (0.75 FTE) to begin to implement AWC services.
- For OHA, it appropriates \$65,724 General Fund, adjusts Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$65,724, and authorizes one permanent position (0.50 FTE) to investigate Medicaid program integrity and take any needed enforcement actions.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A14 amendment to SB 1521. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1521, as amended by the –A12 and -A14 amendments, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1521, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____