

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **SB 1521**

#### **Relating to care for vulnerable individuals**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Capital Construction Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Gelser Blouin

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SB 1521 is a human services omnibus measure that makes changes to statutory provisions related to care for vulnerable individuals. The measure:

- Authorizes the Department of Human Services 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 provide agency-with-choice in-home services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and requires one such contract to be in place by July 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 to hire one additional position to investigate program integrity and take enforcement actions

- Extends the exemption from automatic sprinklers in adult foster homes to licenses issued prior to July 1, 2026
- The -A15 amendment removes provisions related to placement safety and crisis supports, appropriates a total of \$153,159 General Fund, increases Federal Funds expenditure limitation \$153,159, and authorizes four positions (1.25 FTE), including three positions at DHS to begin to implement agency-with-choice in-home services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, and one position at OHA to investigate Medicaid program integrity and take needed enforcement actions.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends SB 1521 be amended by the –A15 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.