

HB 2956 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Elmer, Hartman, Javadi, McIntire, Nguyen H, Nosse, Ruiz, Scharf, Walters

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and administer a pilot program that would allow up to 30 adult foster homes (AFHs) that provide residential care to older adults or people with physical disabilities to serve seven, rather than five, residents. The measure instructs DHS to establish requirements by rule for participating AFHs and to take specified issues into account when approving AFHs for the pilot program. It directs DHS to compile data on the pilot program and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2028. The measure prohibits DHS from enrolling new AFHs into the pilot program starting September 15, 2028.

Detailed Summary:

- Directs DHS to administer a pilot program to allow up to 30 adult foster homes (AFHs) to provide care to up to seven residents who are older adults or people with physical disabilities.
- Instructs DHS to adopt rules for participating AFHs and outlines requirements of the rules, including that AFHs
 - ensure the AFH maintains a minimum staff to resident ratio of one-to-five,
 - prohibit the shared occupancies of rooms by residents other than by spouses or intimate partners and only with proper consent, and
 - be in substantial compliance with applicable laws and rules and meet residents' needs and safety requirements.
- Requires DHS to take certain factors into account when approving an AFH for the pilot program, including
 - the AFH's compliance with regulatory requirements in the preceding two years,
 - the history of abuse and complaints and the findings of investigators, and
 - input from the local regulatory authority about the AFH's ability to admit additional residents.
- Directs DHS to consult with and provide certain information to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) and instructs the LTCO to make residents aware of services provided by the LTCO and the Residential Facilities Ombudsman.
- Requires DHS to collect specified data on the pilot program and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2028.
- Prohibits DHS from enrolling new AFHs into the pilot program after September 15, 2028, prohibits AFHs from removing residents admitted under the pilot program except under specified circumstances, and clarifies DHS must continue to license an AFH that participated in the pilot program if the home continues to meet all other licensing criteria.
- Sunsets January 2, 2039.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of facilities available in Oregon
- Staffing ratios in adult foster homes
- Resident safety

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- Building code requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Adult foster homes (AFHs) are licensed single-family residences that offer 24-hour care in homelike settings to older adults, adults with physical disabilities, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs), or adults diagnosed with qualifying mental illnesses. Adult foster homes provide room and board to residents, as well as services that assist the residents in activities of daily living, such as assistance with bathing, dressing, grooming, and eating. AFHs that serve adults with mental illness are licensed and regulated by the Oregon Health Authority, while AFHs that serve older adults, individuals with physical disabilities, and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are licensed and regulated by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Specifically, the [Office of Aging and People with Disabilities \(APD\)](#) within DHS oversees AFHs that provide care to older adults and adults with physical disabilities. Currently, all types of AFHs may only serve five or fewer adults.

The Legislative Assembly has previously considered bills that would have increased the number of residents that could be served in an AFH. [House Bill 3270 A](#), introduced in 2019, would have required DHS to administer a pilot program to permit participating AFHs to serve up to seven residents. [Senate Bill 1101 \(2023\)](#) would have permitted AFHs to care for up to six residents, and [Senate Bill 1591 \(2024\)](#) would have permitted up to seven residents. None of these proposals were enacted.