

HB 3838 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Action Date: 04/09/25

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 4-3-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Fragala, Grayber, Munoz, Nelson

Nays: 3 - Boshart Davis, Elmer, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/17, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Home and Community-Based Service Workforce Standards Board (Board).

Detailed Summary:

Section 1: Definitions

- "adult foster home," "attendant care services," "community-based structured housing," "developmental disability child foster home," "direct care staff," "domiciliary care facilities," "employer organization," "home and community-based services workforce," "in-home care services," "labor organization," "public hearing," "personal care attendant," "residential care facility," "residential training home," "residential training facility," and "supported living services."

Section 2 and 3: Home and Community-Based Service Workforce Standards Board

Establishes Board for the purpose of strengthening the supply of a skilled home and community-based services workforce by examining factors that may present challenges to recruiting and retaining workers, including but not limited to compensation, work schedules, and other working conditions, as well as adopting rules that establish minimum workforce standards.

The Board consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor. Specifies terms. Specifies quorum. Specifies voting requirements. Specifies appointment of chair and election of vice-chair. Governor may appoint executive director (ED). The Executive Director may hire staff.

The composition of the Board is as follows:

- four members who represent the home and community-based services workforce or worker organizations,
- four members who represent employers of individuals of the home and community-based services workforce or employer organizations,
- two members who represent the interests of individuals who receive services provided by the home and community-based services workforce,
- one member who represents the Bureau of Labor and Industries,
- one member who represents the Department of Human Services, and
- one member who represents the executive department of state government.

Members of the Board are eligible for compensation in accordance with ORS 292.495.

Meetings of the Board are public meetings.

Section 4: Duties of Board

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The Board will adopt rules that establish minimum standards for the home and community-based services workforce that are designed to ensure the health and welfare of such workers.

The Board may not adopt any standards that are less protective of or beneficial to the home and community-based services workforce than the standards provided under any other applicable statute or rule or any standard previously established by the Board.

- At a minimum, the standards must
 - set compensation rates that are not less than the applicable minimum wage rate.
 - establish working conditions requirements, including work schedules and working hours and staffing.
 - establish curriculum and criteria for providing education and professional development opportunities.
 - establish workplace health and safety requirements specific to home and community-based services workforce that are no less protective than provided under the Oregon Safe Employment Act.
 - provide for health care benefits and other paid benefits for the home and community-based services workforce, including but not limited to paid family leave, sick leave, and retirement benefits.
 - establish requirements for itemized statements regarding deductions from wages that meet or exceed current requirements under ORS 652.610, including a requirement that such statements are timely provided to a worker organization.
 - establish requirements for the production of workers' information to be maintained in an employer's records to the Board or to a worker organization that is the labor organization that represents the workers.

Before adopting rules, the Board

- must evaluate and consider information to ensure that the standards meet or exceed labor market conditions. Specifies information that must be evaluated.
- hold at least one public hearing.

The Board must issue a written report to the Legislative Assembly whenever it adopts a minimum wage or working standard that is anticipated to create a fiscal impact, require any adjustment to state funding levels or otherwise result in an increase in the fiscal obligations of the state. Specifies content of report.

The report must be provided to the Legislative Assembly at the beginning of the legislative session next following the date of the adoption of the standard. The Board must obtain ratification of the standard by the Legislative Assembly before the standard may take effect.

Section 5: Comprehensive Review

Requires the Board to conduct a comprehensive review of previously established minimum standards at least once every two years. Requires the Board to conduct a labor market analysis of the working conditions of home and community-based services workforce. Specifies factors to be examined.

Section 6: Reporting

Requires the Board to submit report to the governor and legislative assembly by April 1 of each even-numbered year on the Board's activities and recommendations for changes. Specifies requirements of the report.

Section 7: Uniform Training Standards

Establishes curriculum and criteria for providing education and professional development opportunities.

Training standards must at least include training curriculum that provides information about adopted minimum standards established by the Board; rights and remedies for workers for violations of standards; duties and obligations of the Board; and other information the Board deems necessary.

The Board may adopt rules that establish uniform requirements, standards and criteria to allow a worker organization to become certified to provide the training.

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Requires public hearing and public input process for training standards.

Requires employer to keep records to demonstrate compliance with training requirements.

Section 8: Investigative Authority

For purpose of determining facts related to the implementation of and compliance with minimum standards established by the Board, the Board may

- issue subpoenas for witnesses and production of books, records, and documents relating to the Board;
- administer oaths; and
- take or cause to be taken depositions.

Section 9: Retaliation Prohibition

An employer is prohibited from retaliating or taking adverse action against a worker because the worker

- inquired or exercised rights provided by this Act or minimum standards established by the Board.
- participated in any process or proceeding or testified in any proceeding under this Act;
- participated in any training by certified worker organization.

Section 10: Remedies

A worker may file a complaint with BOLI for an alleged violation of a minimum standard. Complaint must be filed no later than one year after date of alleged violation. A worker may commence a civil action in circuit court.

Section 11: Limits

The Act is not intended to limit, interfere with, or reduce right to a collective bargaining agreement or diminish the rights or remedies that are otherwise available to a worker under federal or state law or regulation.

Section 12: Employer Notice Requirements

Employers must provide notice to workers regarding the rights of workers regarding minimum standards established by the Board; duties and functions of the Board; and contact information for agency that have enforcement authority. The notice must be provided in the language the employer typically uses to communicate with employees. The notice must be posted in a conspicuous location in the workplace and sent by email to each worker of the employer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current wages, working conditions, and workforce challenges in home care sector
- Opportunity for workers and employers to work together
- Different care settings and different payment modalities
- Medicaid reimbursement rates
- Affordability of care

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A state or municipality may use a wage board to either recommend or establish wages, hours, and working conditions for an industry sector. Wage boards are typically composed of equal representation from industry employers and employees who must either together or with other members of the board achieve a majority to either adopt or recommend the adoption of wages, hours, or working conditions for the industry.

Wage boards may be advisory boards, making recommendations regarding minimum wages and working conditions to either the legislature or executive official, such as a labor commissioner or may be policymaking body, having the ability to adopt minimum wages and working conditions, establish training requirements, and

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establish minimum content and posting requirements for workers' rights.

Currently, Colorado, Minnesota, and Nevada have labor standards board related to home care or direct care employees. The Colorado Direct Care Workforce Stabilization Board (DCWSB) was established in the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics in 2023. The DCWSB is composed of 15 members representing direct care employers, direct care workers, direct care consumers, individuals with disabilities, and older adults. It is an advisory body required to develop and report to the legislature and governor recommendations for minimum direct care employment standards.

The Minnesota Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board (NHWSB) was established in 2023 as a policymaking body for the purpose of investigating market conditions and existing wages, benefits, and working conditions for nursing home workers as well as adopting rules establishing minimum nursing home employment standards. The NHWSB has equal representation from nursing home employers, nursing home workers, and state officials. Members representing employer and employees are appointed by the Governor. A majority vote of the members is required to take any action, including establishing minimum nursing home employment standards.

The Nevada Home Care Employment Standards Board (HCESB) is an advisory body established by the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services upon their own judgment or petition of 50 or home care employees. The membership includes the Director who serves as chair and nonvoting member, the Labor Commissioner, three representatives of home care employers, three representatives of home care employees, and three persons who receive or are representatives of persons who receive services from a home care employee. The HCESB must investigate and develop recommendations regarding minimum wages and safe and healthful working conditions for home care employees and may administer oaths, take testimony, and subpoena witnesses and materials relevant to the investigation.