

Senate Bill 442

Sponsored by Senators PATTERSON, GIROD, NASH; Senators GELSER BLOUIN, LINTHICUM, PROZANSKI, Representative EVANS (Pre-session filed.)

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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates the COFA Shared Services Office. (Flesch Readability Score: 82.3).
Establishes the COFA Shared Services Office to assist COFA citizens in applying for and accessing benefits and services.
Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to services for COFA citizens; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** (1) **As used in this section, "COFA citizen" means an individual who is a**
5 **citizen of one of the following countries with a Compact of Free Association with the United**
6 **States:**

- 7 (a) **The Republic of the Marshall Islands;**
8 (b) **The Federated States of Micronesia; or**
9 (c) **The Republic of Palau.**

10 (2) **The COFA Shared Services Office is established within the division of the Department**
11 **of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority that is responsible for shared services.**
12 **The office shall:**

13 (a) **Assist COFA citizens in applying for and accessing:**

14 (A) **Any federal, state or local benefits for which they are eligible, including medical as-**
15 **sistance as defined in ORS 414.025, housing assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance**
16 **Program benefits, temporary assistance for needy families benefits and federal Supplemental**
17 **Security Income benefits;**

18 (B) **Employment services;**

19 (C) **Legal representation; and**

20 (D) **Immigration services.**

21 (b) **Conduct outreach to inform COFA citizens about the availability of the benefits and**
22 **services described in this subsection.**

23 (c) **Award grants to community organizations that provide culturally specific services to**
24 **COFA citizens and ensure that grant moneys are used effectively to improve COFA citizens'**
25 **access to the benefits and services described in this subsection.**

26 (d) **Provide incentives to increase the recruitment and retention of traditional health**
27 **workers as defined in ORS 414.665 who are qualified to provide culturally specific health care**
28 **services to COFA citizens.**

29 (e) **Develop and maintain a website that provides information, in the languages spoken**

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 by COFA citizens, about the office's services.

2 (3) The office shall be under the supervision and control of a director who shall be chosen
3 through an open hiring process. In addition to the director, the office shall include at least
4 the following staff members:

5 (a) One innovator agent who shall collaborate with the department, the authority and
6 coordinated care organizations as defined in ORS 414.025 on improving COFA citizens' access
7 to health care services;

8 (b) One community ambassador; and

9 (c) Three community outreach specialists.

10 **SECTION 2.** No later than September 15 of each year, the COFA Shared Services Office
11 shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of
12 the Legislative Assembly related to human services regarding the progress of the office in
13 implementing the functions and duties described in section 1 of this 2025 Act.

14 **SECTION 3.** (1) Section 1 of this 2025 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2026.

15 (2) The Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority may take any
16 action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary
17 to enable the department and the authority to exercise, on and after the operative date
18 specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred
19 on the department and the authority by section 1 of this 2025 Act.

20 **SECTION 4.** This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025
21 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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