

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Gelser
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 17 – 0 – 4

House – Yeas: Galizio, Garrard, Hanna, Jenson, Morgan, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields
– Nays:

– Exc: D. Edwards

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund, Whitsett

– Nays:

– Exc: Carter, Gordly, Winters

Prepared By: John Britton, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/21/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates a Medically Involved Home Care program in the Department of Human Services (DHS) for children with significant disabilities requiring complex medical care. Requires DHS to begin enrolling 125 children by January 1, 2008 and authorizes DHS to enroll an additional 25 children each year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need for a Medicaid waiver to address the need for Medicaid services for a group of children who have significant medical needs and want to remain in their homes for care.
- How quickly the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would grant the waiver request.
- The numbers of children who could use these services, notwithstanding the CMS limit of 200 children on this kind of waiver.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Many Oregonian families care for very medically involved children at home, but if they do, they are typically not eligible for Medicaid assistance unless the child is placed in foster care or a nursing home, or they impoverish themselves to qualify for Medicaid. A “medically involved” child requires total assistance with eating, dressing, toileting, and mobility.

This measure would require DHS to submit a Medicaid waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for children with disabilities who have extensive medical needs, but who want to be served in their own homes rather than in nursing homes or foster care. The waiver request would be modeled on similar waivers that have been approved by CMS for other states. The measure defines “living at home” as residing with a child’s biological or adoptive parents or legal guardian, and does not include foster care, proctor care, group home placement, or institutional placement.