

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Nathanson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 15 – 0 – 6

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Hanna, Morgan, Nolan
– Nays:

– Exc: Jenson, Nathanson, Shields

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: Allows the Home Care Commission to enter into interagency agreements or contracts with state agencies, provide compensation to home care workers who attend appropriate training and collect fees from persons who attend trainings and are not home care workers, and arrange for compensation and health coverage for home care workers. Determines process by which Commission will be funded (through the Department of Human Services (DHS)). Declares that the members of the commission are officers of the state and the Commission is a state commission. Specifies that the Commission will contract with DHS for a DHS employee to serve as Commission's executive director. Allows Commission to contract with DHS to provide staff support and carry out duties and functions of the Commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The requirement for the Home Care Commission to operate as independently as possible.
- The need to clarify the language in section 2 of the A-engrossed bill.
- The measure does not create a new state agency with a separate budget
- The fiscal impact of the bill and how this impact is treated in the DHS budget.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces lines 17 and 18 of the bill to clarify that the Commission may charge fees to, and collect fees from, persons who attend their training sessions and who are not currently home care workers.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Home Care Commission was created with the passage of Ballot Measure 99 in 2000. It is a nine-member commission. Members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, confirmed by the Senate. The Commission has four major responsibilities: 1) to define the qualifications of home care workers; 2) to create a statewide registry of home care workers; 3) to provide training opportunities for home care workers and consumers; and 4) to collectively bargain for home care workers whose pay comes from public funds.