

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 7 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Gilliam, Holvey, Thatcher, Witt, Read
Nays: 0
Exc.: Galizio
Prepared By: Barbara Allen, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends the Residential Service Protection Fund's (RSPF) sunset provision from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2020. Broadens the definition of Medicaid recipients residing in long term or residential care facilities who are eligible for the Fund. Changes the requirement for eligibility for the Telecommunication Device Access Program from severe hearing impaired to hearing impaired and severe speech impaired to speech impaired, as certified by the appropriate medical professionals. Declares an emergency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of the Residential Service Protection Fund
- Whether this legislation will put the program in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act
- Medicaid recipients' eligibility requirements
- Public Utility Commission pricing policy of the monthly surcharge to fund the program
- Emergency clause

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) programs were established in 1987 to provide adaptive telephone equipment to individuals with disabilities as determined by licensed specialists and telephone access for low income Oregonians.

This measure changes the definition of the hearing and speech disabilities to meet a broader need. It also corrects previous legislation (SB 41, 2007) to allow additional Medicaid recipients who were inadvertently made ineligible for the programs because they exceeded the income level criteria.

The RSPF programs allow the State of Oregon to maintain compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Since 1987, the RSPF programs have had four subsequent sunset extensions to review their effectiveness and efficiencies.