

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers– House: Reps. Olson/Boone
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 19 – 0 – 3

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Komp, Nathanson, Richardson, G. Smith

Nays:

Exc: Kotek, Shields

Senate

Yeas: Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 29, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows the Department of Human Services to provide non-cash benefits to individuals receiving assistance under the Oregon Supplemental Income Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Program flexibility to redirect cash payments does not reduce overall funding for program services
- Bill does not require emergency clause due to DHS' need to work with stakeholders, amend Oregon Administrative Rules before implementation
- Estimated administrative savings to be included in the Department of Human Services 2009-11 budget bill (SB 5529)

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Supplemental Income Program (OSIP) provides small cash payments or special need allowances to needy individuals who are 65 years of age or older, blind, or disabled. The Department of Human Services (DHS) pays the cash payments through monthly or annual checks, often for amounts of less than \$5. The costs of printing, mailing, tracking and other administrative work related to the checks exceed the amount of program benefits received. Many of the checks are never cashed. HB 3065 would allow DHS to redirect the cash benefits to other, more meaningful assistance and enable it to reduce its administrative costs.