

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage, But with Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	3 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	Kruse, Telfer
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/16, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies the definition of “home care worker” to include those who are paid in whole or in part by the Department of Human Services, an area agency or any other public agency, and to limit the definition to those that are registered with the Home Care Commission. Requires the Department of Human Services to keep and maintain the names and addresses of the homecare workers for the next two biennia, until July 1, 2013. Provides that in the event that the cost of home care services increases as a result of a wage or benefit increase for home care workers secured by a collective bargaining agreement, the Department of Human Services may not reduce the amount of funds available to a person with a disability to purchase home care services or other services and products related to health and human service programs to offset any increased cost of home care services. Updates existing statutes for consistency with constitutional language.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Chart of homecare programs run by the State of Oregon
- Potential fiscal impact of measure and proposed amendment
- Collective bargaining process and impact on budget
- Independent Choices Programs in Washington and California
- Staley Settlement impact with adoption of measure
- Brokerage homecare workers’ lack of training, benefits and Worker’s Compensation coverage
- Concern over reduction in “buying power” under capped programs
- Potential costs associated with needed information technology modifications

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires the Department of Human Services to keep and maintain the names and addresses of the homecare workers for the next two biennia, until July 1, 2013. Provides that in the event that the cost of home care services increases as a result of a wage or benefit increase for home care workers secured by a collective bargaining agreement, the Department of Human Services may not reduce the amount of funds available to a person with a disability to purchase home care services or other services and products related to health and human service programs to offset any increased cost of home care services.

BACKGROUND: The Homecare Commission was created by the passage of Ballot Measure 99 in the 2000 General Election. Measure 99 amended the constitution, creating commission ensuring quality home care services for the elderly and disabled. The Homecare Commission works to improve the quality of homecare in Oregon and has developed homecare programs that provide training for care providers, provide clients and family members’ access to a registry of homecare workers and provide access to respite care. Currently, Oregonians with developmental disabilities, medically fragile children and other frail Oregonians are not part of the Homecare Commission purview.