

2009 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 551

STATUS: A Engrossed

SUBJECT: Requires the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a plan for providing emergency services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Human Services

PREPARED BY: Kim To

REVIEWED BY: Sheila Baker

DATE: April 28, 2009

2009-2011

2011-2013

EXPENDITURES:

See Analysis

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill includes an emergency clause and is effective on passage. This Act is repealed on January 2, 2012.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

ANALYSIS: This measure appropriates an unspecified amount of General Fund to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and requires the Department to develop and implement a plan for providing emergency services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities who receive services through the Department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2007 and who lose services due to reductions in funding during the biennium beginning July 1, 2009. The bill defines senior citizens and persons with disabilities as residents of long term care facilities, residents of residential care facilities, and individuals who receive home- and community-based services. The bill requires the emergency services to be coordinated by area agencies. The bill does not define emergency services.

The fiscal impact of providing emergency services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities as directed by the bill is indeterminate because emergency services are undefined and reductions in funding have not yet been determined for the 2009-11 biennium. DHS anticipates requiring added staff for both client case management and one-time client costs to meet the service needs outlined in the bill. The fiscal impact of staffing and resources needed for caseload management or individualized services cannot be quantified at this time.

The measure requires DHS to maintain records on these senior citizens and persons with disabilities in order to create a study, in collaboration with area agencies, of the impact of the termination or reduction in services on such individuals. DHS is directed to contract with private entities and individuals to conduct the study. The Department is instructed to report back to the appropriate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than November 1, 2010. The report must include recommendations for the restoration of funding of long term care facilities, residential care facilities and home- and community-based services. Based on the cost of similar studies conducted by the Department, DHS estimates the contract with a private entity to conduct this study would cost approximately \$75,000 General Fund. The bill does not address how client information is to be gathered or maintained, so there could be a fiscal impact associated with this activity, separate from the cost of the required study.

This bill requires budgetary action for allocation of General Fund resources and position establishment.