

Senate Bill 548

Sponsored by Senator MORRISETTE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Human Services and area agencies to collaborate with stakeholders, advocates and community partners to develop set of resources and services to keep seniors and persons with disabilities in their own homes and avoid or reduce need for medical assistance for long term care.

Sunsets January 2, 2016.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to reducing the need for long term care.

2 Whereas Oregon is a pioneer in developing community-based care options for seniors and per-
3 sons with physical disabilities; and

4 Whereas Oregon continues to maintain the lowest institutionalization rate of seniors of all 50
5 states and is nationally recognized for its vast array of community-based care options; and

6 Whereas the aging demographic and the increase in the number of younger persons with disa-
7 bilities require that Oregon expand long term care services and resources throughout the state to
8 ensure that individuals in both populations are independent, healthy and safe in their own homes
9 and home communities; and

10 Whereas preventive and early intervention services have been shown to forestall the needs of
11 seniors and persons with disabilities for expensive long term care services and support; and

12 Whereas, due to budget-driven reductions in the 2003-2005 biennium, Oregon's long term care
13 system is no longer comprehensive in nature and its scope is limited to meeting the needs of sig-
14 nificantly impaired, lower income seniors and persons with disabilities; and

15 Whereas without changes to Oregon's long term care system, the Department of Human Services
16 can expect its Medicaid long term care caseload to grow from 27,000 individuals today to 44,000
17 individuals by 2030; and

18 Whereas Oregon's General Fund can ill afford this significant increase in the state's Medicaid
19 long term care caseload over the next 20 years; and

20 Whereas most individuals and families prefer to meet their own care needs without reliance on
21 publicly funded services; and

22 Whereas national studies demonstrate that approximately 80 percent of care giving is provided
23 and paid for by individuals, family members and friends; and

24 Whereas many seniors and persons with disabilities and their caregivers do not have the infor-
25 mation, skills or support to make informed decisions and, as a result, often make choices that end
26 up using more intense and expensive levels of care than are necessary; and

27 Whereas Oregon's current long term care system lacks the capacity to provide preventive and
28 early intervention services, including information, guided assistance and support to these popu-
29 lations; and
30

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly desires to address these issues and, ultimately,
2 forestall the need for state-paid long term care services by giving seniors, persons with disabilities,
3 unpaid caregivers and all individuals approaching retirement the resources and support to enable
4 them to take more responsibility for their health and well-being and make responsible and appro-
5 priate choices regarding their long term care; now, therefore,

6 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) **As used in this section:**

8 (a) **“Area agency”** has the meaning given that term in ORS 410.040.

9 (b) **“Persons with disabilities”** has the meaning given that term in ORS 410.040.

10 (c) **“Seniors”** means individuals 60 years of age and older.

11 (2) **The Department of Human Services shall work with the area agencies to develop a**
12 **set of resources and services for seniors and persons with disabilities and their families that**
13 **will help them avoid the need for or minimize the scope and cost of long term care. The re-**
14 **sources and services shall:**

15 (a) **Be easy for users to access;**

16 (b) **Include a comprehensive database of resources, services and support for seniors and**
17 **persons with disabilities and their families;**

18 (c) **Use the most up-to-date computer and telephonic technologies; and**

19 (d) **Utilize prevention and early intervention services as strategies to reduce the need for**
20 **medical assistance.**

21 (3) **In its planning and development of the services under this section, the department**
22 **shall consult and collaborate with stakeholders, advocates and community partners.**

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2009 Act is repealed January 2, 2016.
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