

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Kotek
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and as Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 22 – 0 – 3

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Richardson,
G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc: Komp, Nolan

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Thomsen

Prepared By: Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 8, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies statutes relating to the temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) program, job opportunity and basic skills (JOBS) program, Parents as Scholars program, State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program, and Post-TANF aid to employed families, to allow the Department of Human Services (DHS) to suspend certain current requirements for aid and add new requirements for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011. Modifies statutes for JOBS engagement and disqualification and assignment of child support rights for TANF recipients. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review of proposed amendments.
- Need for statutory changes to align with budget and program reductions anticipated for the DHS budget in HB 5030
- Suspension of statutes for the 2011-13 biennium rather than fully eliminating the 2007 program redesign
- More practical standard for JOBS engagement and disqualification as permanent change
- Eliminating JOBS participation requirement for one-parent families with child under age 2 saves child care costs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original bill.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2469, which redesigned the TANF program. According to DHS records, since implementing the TANF redesign in October 2007, Oregon has experienced an unprecedented economic downturn and need for client services. TANF cash assistance caseloads are now 65 percent higher than in 2007 (18,189 families in September 2007 and 30,108 families in March 2011).

Federal funding for the TANF program is a capped block grant. Oregon receives \$166.8 million a year from the base block grant, which pays for cash assistance, JOBS employment and training services, child care, and other self-sufficiency programs. The base amount is not adjusted to cover rising caseloads or costs. The combination of federal TANF grant funds and other resources has not been sufficient to fully fund the TANF program as redesigned. DHS anticipates a number of program and service reductions to operate within appropriated funding for the 2011-13 biennium.