76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2011 Regular Session MEASURE: SB 221

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Senate Committee on Health Care, Human Services & Rural Health Policy

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass **Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson

Nays: 0 Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes permanent provisions allowing health care representative (HCR) to consent to hospitalization of the principal for a period not to exceed 18 days for treatment of behavior caused by dementia.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in occurrence of dementia
- Adequacy of 18 day hospitalization limit
- Necessity of specific HCR provisions for dementia
- Typical hospitalization stay time

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: During the 2009 Session, the Health Care Decisions Act was amended by Senate Bill 16, which gave HCRs the authority to consent to short term hospitalization of the principal for treatment of behavior associated with dementia. This provision is set to sunset on January 2, 2012.

Dementia describes a group of symptoms affecting intellectual and social abilities severely enough to interfere with daily functioning. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. According to the Oregon Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, over 76,000 Oregonians are living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

An advance directive allows a person to appoint a HCR to direct his or her health care when the person is unable. The HCR follows the person's desires as stated in the advance directive or tries to act in the person's best interest if the person's desires are unknown.