

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Morse, Monnes Anderson

Nays: 0

Exc.: Shields

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Meeting Dates: 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the Task Force on Long Term Care (Task Force) to advise the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Governor on policy recommendations to address changes in utilization of long term care (LTC) settings serving seniors and people with disabilities, including: (a) maintaining adequate access to LTC settings for Medicaid recipients; (b) finding ways to improve the quality of LTC; and (c) maintaining an adequate LTC workforce. Establishes member criteria for the Task Force. Sunsets Task Force on the date of the convening of the 2013 regular session. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Governor's budget cut recommendations
- Importance of adequate and trained workforce
- Importance of adequate access

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Portland State University's Population Research Center 2008 report states that thirteen percent of Oregon's population is sixty five years of age or older. Additionally, there are ten counties (Baker, Coos, Douglas, Gilliam, Josephine, Lake, Lincoln, Sherman, Tillamook and Wallowa) where this subset of the population comprises twenty percent or more of the general population. Two counties (Curry and Wheeler) had a population of this subset comprising thirty percent of the general population. The 2006 Governor's Commission on Senior Services forecasts that Oregon's elderly population will reach over 850,000 in 2030.

LTC encompasses a range of services that help individuals who can no longer meet their own daily needs, often referred to as activities of daily living. In June of 2009, almost 18,400 Oregon seniors received LTC services paid for by Medicaid. Of Americans with LTC needs, seventeen percent reside in nursing facilities while the other eighty-three percent live in the community, often cared for by family members as reported by DHS.

Senate Bill 936 establishes a Task Force to make policy recommendations regarding LTC services as DHS and the Governor consider budget cuts in this area.