

House Bill 2048

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor John A. Kitzhaber for Department of Human Services)

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**.

Authorizes Department of Human Services to maintain list of, instead of contracting with, lawyers and nonprofit legal services organizations to represent recipients of State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program assistance in administrative hearings before Social Security Administration. Requires recipients to cooperate in applying for Supplemental Security Income benefits and to sign interim assistance reimbursement agreement.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program; amending ORS 411.081 and 412.014; and declar-
3 ing an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 412.014 is amended to read:

6 412.014. (1) There is created in the Department of Human Services the State Family
7 Pre-SSI/SSDI program. The department shall provide aid under this section to families that are eli-
8 gible for temporary assistance for needy families under ORS 412.001 to 412.069 and that include a
9 needy caretaker relative who is unable to maintain substantial gainful activity due to a disability
10 or combination of disabilities that meet the criteria of section 216 of the Social Security Act.

11 (2) The department shall assist families receiving aid under this section in qualifying for federal
12 Supplemental Security Income and Social Security disability benefits, including obtaining necessary
13 medical records and evaluations. The department shall [*contract with nonprofit legal services organ-*
14 *izations, or lawyers lawfully admitted to the bar of any state, to represent recipients in any adminis-*
15 *trative appeal*] **maintain a list of lawyers admitted to the bar of any state and approved by the**
16 **Social Security Administration and nonprofit legal services organizations that represent**
17 **Oregon residents in administrative hearings before the Social Security Administration Office**
18 **of Disability Adjudication and Review.**

19 (3) The department shall adopt rules for determining the amount of aid granted under this sec-
20 tion that is not less than the combined total of 43 percent of the Supplemental Security Income
21 payment in effect at that time and the amount of aid the child would receive under ORS 412.006 if
22 the caretaker relative did not receive aid.

23 (4) Participation in the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program shall be voluntary. The department
24 shall provide information to potential participants in the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program about
25 the opportunities for employment while receiving Supplemental Security Income [*benefits*] and about
26 employment resources available to State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program participants. The information
27 must be in a format accessible to the potential participant.

28 (5) Participants in the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program must cooperate with the department

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 in establishing eligibility for Supplemental Security Income [*or Social Security disability benefits*]
 2 **including, but not limited to, signing an interim assistance reimbursement agreement.** The
 3 department by rule may establish policies for monitoring and encouraging full engagement in the
 4 State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program, including activities that promote family stability. The depart-
 5 ment shall offer participants the opportunity to participate in any suitable activity in the job op-
 6 portunity and basic skills program under ORS 412.009.

7 **SECTION 2.** ORS 411.081 is amended to read:

8 411.081. (1) A person seeking public assistance shall file an application for public assistance with
 9 the Department of Human Services. At the time of application, the applicant shall declare to the
 10 department any circumstance that directly affects the applicant's eligibility to receive assistance or
 11 the amount of assistance available to the applicant. Upon the receipt of property or income or upon
 12 any other change in circumstances that directly affects the eligibility of the recipient to receive
 13 assistance or the amount of assistance available to the recipient, the applicant, recipient or other
 14 person in the assistance household shall immediately notify the department of the receipt or pos-
 15 session of such property or income, or other change in circumstances. The department shall recover
 16 from the recipient the amount of assistance improperly disbursed by reason of failure to comply with
 17 the provision of this section.

18 (2) The department may recover any cash assistance granted for general assistance under ORS
 19 411.710 to 411.730, and the recipient's portion of the aid described in ORS 412.014 (3), that has been
 20 paid to any recipient 18 years of age or older[, *and for the costs incurred by the department to provide*
 21 *representation to the recipient under ORS 412.014 (2),*] when the recipient is presently receiving or
 22 subsequently receives Supplemental Security Income. The amount of recovery shall be limited to the
 23 total amount of Supplemental Security Income that was received for the same time period that the
 24 general assistance or the aid received under ORS 412.014 was being paid.

25 (3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be construed as to prevent the depart-
 26 ment from entering into a compromise agreement for recovery of assistance improperly disbursed,
 27 if the department determines that the administration and collection costs involved would exceed the
 28 amount that can reasonably be expected to be recovered.

29 **SECTION 3. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
 30 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect**
 31 **on its passage.**

32