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House Bill 2859A Background

House Bill 2859A contains technical changes that further clarify the separation of OHA from DHS and implement changes needed to align state statutes with changes in federal law. The bill accomplishes four main things:

1. Removes medical assistance from the definition of “public assistance” in ORS 411.010 (Section 32) and makes other technical and conforming changes to clarify the responsibilities of DHS and OHA in determining eligibility for and administering public assistance and medical assistance.
2. Conforms state medical assistance application and eligibility statutes with changes in federal law (Sections 41-44 and Section 77).
3. Authorizes delegations of authority between OHA, DHS and the Insurance Exchange (Section 96).
4. Requires OHA to establish a program to provide grants to CCOs to fund pilot projects to improve patient engagement and accountability. The bill also establishes the Task Force on Individual Responsibility and Health Engagement to develop recommendations (Sections 100-103).