FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

Measure: HB 2587

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Measure Description:

Expands assessments and services provided by Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs to include children from zero to three years of age and their families.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Early Learning Council, counties

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 2587 opens the target population for assessments and services provided by Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs from only first birth/newly born children to include all children from zero to three years of age and their families.

This bill is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact on the Early Learning Council and counties. Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs reside within Oregon counties. Current statutes directs the Early Learning Council to establish Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs through contracts entered into by local commissions on children and families in all Oregon counties as funding becomes available. This fiscal assumes these programs will reprioritize assessments and services in order to serve this expanded target population with available funding. Opening the target population from only first births and newborns to include all children from zero to three years of age allows programs more flexibility to serve families who do not currently have services available to them. The bill is anticipated to alleviate unintended competition between Oregon's Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs and the national non-profit Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) community health home visiting programs. Currently, both Oregon's Healthy Start/Healthy Families America and NFP only serve first birth families. A service gap for families with subsequent births has been identified in many communities across Oregon, and research shows families with more than one child have higher incidents of child abuse and have been shown to have similar to greater outcomes with evidence-based home visiting services like those offered through Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs. Nurse-Family Partnership, by evidence-based model design, only serves first birth families. The national Healthy Start/Healthy Families America program evidence-based model does not require serving only first birth families. This bill would align Oregon's Healthy Start/Healthy Families America programs with national strategy and initiatives.

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