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

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Measure Description:

Extends sunset on changes to temporary assistance for needy families program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

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 2055 extends the sunset on changes to the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program, authorizing DHS to continue several program restrictions for the 2013-15 biennium that are in place for 2011-13 but which would otherwise expire June 30, 2013 including:

- Allowing DHS to prescribe by rule the TANF up-front eligibility process by implementing a JOBS employability assessment, tying the assessment to receipt of aid, and providing services based on the assessment.
- Closing Parents as Scholars program to new clients but allow plans in effect on 6/30/11 to continue.
- Denying aid based on a "job quit" period, which is modified to within 60 days of TANF application.
- Establishing an income eligibility limit equal to 185% of federal poverty guidelines for non-parent caretaker relatives of dependent children.
- Extends the reduction of the Pre-SSI/SDI enhanced grant to the same level as a TANF grant.

DHS estimates that passage of this bill will allow the TANF program to avoid an estimated \$19.2 in General Fund expenditures for the 2013-15 biennium. If this bill does not pass, DHS could incur program costs as detailed below:

Program	2013-15
TANF Up Front Eligibility	(3,079,764)
Parents as Scholars	(5,978,700)
TANF "Job Quit" Penalty	(910,234)
TANF Income Limit for Non-parent Caretaker Relatives	(6,838,272)
Pre-SSI Enhanced Rate	(2,351,103)
Total General Fund Savings	(\$19,158,073)