

House Bill 2712

Sponsored by Representatives TOMEI, GREENLICK; Representatives BARTON, BOONE, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, FREEMAN, GALLEGOS, KENNEMER, KENY-GUYER, THOMPSON, Senators MONNES ANDERSON, ROBLAN, STEINER HAYWARD

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**.

Requires Department of Human Services to establish advisory committee to assist department in developing recommendations for general assistance program to serve low-income, childless adults with disabilities and to report recommendations to Legislative Assembly.

Sunsets on date of convening of 2014 regular session of Legislative Assembly.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to general assistance; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas thousands of childless adults with disabling conditions have little or no income; and

4 Whereas federal disability benefits, including Supplemental Security Income, can help these
5 vulnerable individuals achieve a level of self-sufficiency; and

6 Whereas it often takes years to qualify for federal disability benefits; and

7 Whereas before 2005, the general assistance program in Oregon provided cash assistance and
8 case management assistance to low-income, childless adults with disabilities while they pursued
9 federal disability benefits; and

10 Whereas Oregon has not funded its general assistance program since 2005; and

11 Whereas conditions have changed since 2005 due to the recession, demographic changes in
12 Oregon, including the burgeoning baby boomer population and the return of injured troops from Iraq
13 and Afghanistan, the development of potential public safety reforms and the implementation of state
14 and national health care reform; and

15 Whereas it is timely and important to look at the issues facing these vulnerable individuals and
16 the impact of their unmet needs on state and local resources; now, therefore,

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

18 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Human Services shall develop recommendations for**
19 **a general assistance program to serve low-income, childless adults with disabilities. In de-**
20 **veloping the recommendations, the department shall consider:**

21 **(a) The number of people who receive medical assistance based on disabilities;**

22 **(b) Relevant data from the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program established under ORS**
23 **412.014;**

24 **(c) Statistical information on general assistance programs in other states and from na-**
25 **tional sources;**

26 **(d) An analysis of how the lack of a general assistance program in this state affects other**
27 **programs administered by the department, the Housing and Community Services Department**
28 **and other state agencies;**

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 (e) Needs assessments conducted by communities or involving key informants and other
2 data available on local needs for general assistance; and

3 (f) Other state and local models for programs that serve low-income childless adults with
4 disabilities.

5 (2) The recommendations shall include strategies for effectively providing general as-
6 sistance, with special attention to the following groups of individuals:

7 (a) Homeless individuals;

8 (b) Veterans;

9 (c) Low-income individuals born between 1955 and 1964;

10 (d) Individuals receiving health care through coordinated care organizations; and

11 (e) Inmates nearing release from correctional facilities and individuals subject to super-
12 vision by a local supervisory authority.

13 (3) The Department of Human Services shall report its recommendations to the Legisla-
14 tive Assembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 no later than January 1, 2014. The
15 recommendations may include establishing a pilot project to serve a subgroup of all low-
16 income, childless adults with disabilities residing in Oregon.

17 **SECTION 2.** Not later than 45 days after the effective date of this 2013 Act, the Depart-
18 ment of Human Services shall establish an advisory committee to assist in the development
19 of recommendations for a general assistance program under section 1 of this 2013 Act. The
20 committee shall include representatives of all entities that serve significant numbers of
21 low-income, childless adults with disabilities, including, but not limited to:

22 (1) Homeless shelters, groups that advocate for homeless individuals, nonprofit civil legal
23 aid organizations, the system described in ORS 192.517 (1) and other statewide or
24 community-based organizations serving low-income, childless adults with disabilities;

25 (2) Area agencies, as defined in ORS 410.040;

26 (3) The Housing and Community Services Department;

27 (4) The Oregon Health Authority;

28 (5) The Department of Corrections;

29 (6) Supervisory authorities, as defined in ORS 144.087; and

30 (7) The Department of Veterans' Affairs.

31 **SECTION 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this 2013 Act are repealed on the date of the convening
32 of the 2014 regular session of the Legislative Assembly as specified in ORS 171.010.

33 **SECTION 4.** This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect
35 on its passage.

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