Senator Steiner Hayward

FULL COMMITTEE PONY

Department of Human Services Nursing Facility Capacity Report

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report on nursing facility capacity.

A budget note from the 2013 session directed the Department of Human Services (DHS), to report on discussions with providers about nursing facility capacity reduction and transition. These discussions relate to 2013 legislation that reauthorized the Long Term Care Facility Assessment and set a goal of reducing Oregon's long term care bed capacity by 1,500 beds by the end of 2015.

The agency has been educating stakeholders, including facility administrators and owners, about the legislation and the capacity reduction initiative. While only 55 beds have closed so far, there has been a lot of interest in the program.

The Subcommittee discussed barriers, such as complex ownership and operating arrangements, that providers face in attempting to reduce bed capacity. It was noted that progress toward the reduction goal is expected to increase as the agency, industry, and providers learn how to best navigate some of these barriers.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.