

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Gallegos
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Steiner Hayward

Revenue:

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote:

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: March 3, 2014

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Home Care Commission to establish and administer the Private Pay Consumer program to enable private individuals to purchase in-home care services from the Commission through the Home Care Registry. The bill directs the Home Care Commission to create a subcommittee of the commission to define and establish new classifications of in-home care workers. Ensures that the state incurs no liability for the cost of home care services purchased by private payers through the program by specifying that if revenue generated by private pay consumer payments are insufficient to pay the costs of home care services, the commission may modify the payment rate. In addition, if the modifying the payment rates will not generate sufficient revenue, the commission may suspend the program following 30 days advance written notice to private payers and home care workers participating in the program. The bill requires the private pay program to be implemented by July 1, 2015; and operational by January 1, 2016. The bill contains an emergency clause, and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Important for everyone to have access to quality home care
- Need for trained workers with cleared background checks
- Preventative legislation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Reinforces the self-support expectation for the program and lays out steps for the Commission to take if revenues are insufficient to cover costs. It also keeps the home care worker classification subcommittee in place indefinitely and clarifies that health and safety standards established by the Commission will be in accordance with OR-OSHA standards.

BACKGROUND: In 2000, the citizens of Oregon voted to amend the State Constitution to create the Oregon Home Care Commission. The Commission is responsible for ensuring the quality of home care services that are funded by the Department of Human Services for seniors and people with disabilities. Additionally, the Commission is responsible for addressing the needs of persons with developmental disabilities, mental illnesses, their family members, and personal support workers. The Commission facilitates filing workers' compensation claims for both home care workers and personal support workers.