



SB 244: Agency Transition – Program Changes

SUMMARY

SB 244 seeks to continue the Agency's transition plan by proposing minor programmatic changes. There will be a minimal fiscal impact which can be managed with existing Department resources.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, Governor Kitzhaber charged the Housing and Community Services Department with examining our governance, service delivery, and community partnership model. The Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) spent more than a year completing this task, which included a process designed to solicit input and feedback from stakeholders, partners, and advisory bodies. This process resulted in a range of recommendations including several recommendations related to program delivery. In February 2014, OHCS reported to the Governor and Legislature with an outline of a plan to make changes to the governance and service delivery structure.

In the 2015 Legislative session, OHCS is requesting to continue this process. Some of the proposed changes will require statutory changes to complete the transition. This concept suggests potential program changes identified through the stakeholder engagement process, including aligning eligibility criteria. Other program change recommendations did not require statutory changes.

PROPOSED CHANGES

This legislative concept includes a proposed statutory change to programs delivered by OHCS. Primarily, this change seeks to align eligibility criteria of different funding streams in order to better and more effectively deliver services to Oregonians. Specifically, the concept seeks to align language about the equitable distribution of resources; it seeks to align language related to income eligibility for program consistency; and the purposes for which funds can be used.

These changes seek to align language, not to make substantive changes to program eligibility or the uses of funds.

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