

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 503**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office**Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official**Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Laurie Byerly, Linda Ames
Date: 2/26/2015**Measure Description:**

Requires Department of Human Services to identify applicants for and recipients of assistance under temporary assistance for needy families program who are victims of sexual assault or at risk for being victims of sexual assault.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Expenditure Impact – Department of Humans Services:

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
¹ IT (System Modification)	53,487	
² Staff Training	718,614	340,626
³ TA-DVS Payments cap increase - assuming no new case	2,159,313	14,618,604
⁴ TA-DVS Payments - assuming an additional 45 cases per month	843,639	1,461,860
⁵ New ORS 163.760 SA Payments	1,185,780	2,054,726
General Fund	\$4,960,833	\$18,475,816
¹ IT (System Modification)	49,373	
Federal Funds	\$49,373	
TOTAL FUNDS	\$5,010,206	\$18,475,816

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:

Senate Bill 503 expands the Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) program to include survivors of sexual assault and individuals at risk of sexual assault. Under current statutes, TA-DVS provides emergency assistance of up to \$1,200 to low-income survivors of domestic violence to pay for emergency safety provisions such as motel vouchers, emergency transportation, and lock changes. SB 503 increases the maximum payment amount allowed for both survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence from \$1,200 to \$2,000. The bill requires DHS to add information on the sexual assault cases and program efforts to its currently required (ORS 411.154) biennial report to the Legislature on the TA-DVS program.

Currently, DHS is required to identify applicants for, and recipients of, assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who are survivors of domestic violence, or are at risk of domestic violence. This bill requires DHS to also identify and offer assistance to survivors of sexual assault, and potential survivors of sexual assault, whether or not the attacker is a family member or lives with the survivor. DHS projects the cost of carrying out the provisions of this bill to be \$5,010,206 Total Funds for the 2015-17 biennium. This amount includes \$4,188,732 General Fund for emergency assistance payments to survivors; \$718,614 General Funds for training; and \$53,487 General Fund plus \$49,373 Federal Funds (\$102,860 Total Funds) for modifications of the department's information system to track survivors of sexual assault separate from domestic violence survivors for both payment and reporting

purposes. System changes would need to be implemented with assistance from the Oregon Health Authority, as that agency provides information technology shared services to DHS.

¹ Currently, field staff uses the Transition Referral and Client Self-Sufficiency (TRACS) system. This system will need to be modified to carry out the provisions of this bill. The bill requires DHS to identify applicants for and recipients of assistance under TANF who are survivors of sexual assault or at risk of being survivor of sexual assault, whether or not the attacker is a family member or lives with the survivor, for assistance, data gathering, and reporting purposes. DHS will need to develop new codes in TRACS to separate sexual assault victims from domestic violence victims, as well as new waiver and pay codes.

² With passage of this bill, both current Self-Sufficiency trainers and staff will need additional training. Program curriculum will need to be updated. Cost projections for staff training includes the cost of instructors, equipment, facilities and travel for approximately 2,000 staff in local offices. Efficacy of sexual assault and domestic violence training for department staff, including information sharing and evaluation, is part of the required legislative reporting.

³ The current average cost per case is \$781.80 for domestic violence cases. DHS projects that with the maximum payment amount allowed increasing from \$1,200 to \$2,000 the cost per case will increase to \$1,042.40. Based on 2014 numbers, the current average case per month is 446. Assuming no new cases and that clients would only need the same percentage of maximum payment, DHS estimates the cost of raising the maximum payment to be \$2,092,357 for the 18 months of the 2015-17 biennium. Assuming a 2.40% cost of living increase to the payment limit in January 2017, DHS projects an additional cost of \$66,955 for the 2015-17 biennium, making the total cost of increasing the payment cap for domestic violence cases to be \$2,159,313 for the 2015-17 biennium. The bill requires the payment limit to be adjusted annually base in the prior year's consumer price index.

⁴ DHS projects seeing a potential increase of 45 new domestic violence cases per month due to the increase in maximum limit. This assumption is driven by a current percentage of individuals declining to apply for assistance because the maximum limit is too low. DHS predicts that with the increase, these individuals might invest the time and effort into applying for assistance.

⁵ DHS estimates that with the inclusion of survivors of sexual assault and potential victims of sexual assault, whether or not the attacker is a family member or lives with the survivor (ORS 163.760), the department could see an increase of 67 new cases per month.

This bill requires budgetary action for the allocation of General Fund resources; while the TA-DVS program is primarily funded with TANF dollars, that federal block grant is capped. In addition, while the fiscal impact does not identify a need for position authority, depending on program workload and complexity, positions or changes in position classifications may be needed to adequately implement the program.