

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to inform benefits recipients of changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through news media, information at sites recipients frequent, and general mailings to recipients’ households. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alignment with federal rule
- Cost of preparing notices that were not needed (about \$150,000)
- Alternatives to comply, while also conserving costs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-2 amendment] Permits mass notifications only for suspensions or closures, not for reductions, in assistance, and makes same applicable to WIC as well.

BACKGROUND: Current law requires DHS and OHA to send notice of SNAP changes to each individual recipient by mail a month before the change takes effect, and at least ten days before any changes that take effect within 60 days.

Senate Bill 225 relaxes the individual notice requirement by permitting mass notifications of changes to SNAP.