
MEMORANDUM

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To: Human Services Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office
503-986-1833

Date: June 18, 2015

Subject: HB 2392 - Relating to the statewide electronic benefits transfer system for public aid Work Session Recommendation

House Bill 2392 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to print the names of authorized users on Oregon Trail replacement cards for cards that are reported lost or stolen. This requirement applies to temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) and supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP) benefits. There is an exception for SNAP benefits issued to senior citizens.

The measure previously had committee hearings in House Human Services and Housing on February 25 and in House Judiciary on March 10 and April 2. The measure, the original staff measure summary, and fiscal impact statement are available on the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS).

The bill has a fiscal impact of \$189,374 General Fund and \$189,365 Federal Funds to pay for one position and special printing equipment to print names on cards. These adjustments will be included in the main budget bill for DHS, HB 5026, in the Self Sufficiency program.

The measure is recommended to be moved to the Full Committee on Joint Ways and Means.

Motion: I move HB 2392 to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with a “do pass” recommendation.

Assignment of Carriers

Full: _____

1st Chamber: _____

2nd Chamber: _____

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 2392 - A**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
Date: 4/6/2015**Measure Description:**

Requires Department of Human Services to issue specified types of public assistance through electronic benefits transfer card.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
Personal Services	44,966	51,390
Services & Supplies	16,548	13,052
Special Payments	127,860	99,840
Total General Fund	189,374	164,282
Personal Services	44,966	51,390
Services & Supplies	16,539	13,051
Special Payments	127,860	99,840
Total Federal Funds	189,365	164,281
TOTAL FUNDS	\$378,739	\$328,563
Positions	1	1
FTE	0.88	1.00

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:

House Bill 2392 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to print the names of authorized users on Oregon Trail electronic benefit transfer (EBT) replacement cards for cards that are reported lost or stolen. This requirement applies to temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) and supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP) benefits. The bill specifies that the requirements of the bill do not apply to SNAP benefits issued to senior citizens or to benefit checks from the federal Supplemental Security Income.

Under current practice, Oregon Trail Cards only included a unique card number. Typically, benefits go to entire households, and any family member is able to use the household debit card. In addition, a SNAP household has a right to designate a trusted relative, friend or service agency to food shop for them. The bill requires DHS to print names on replacement cards for cards that have been reported lost or stolen.

DHS estimates the cost of complying with the provisions of this bill to be \$378,739 Total Funds (0.88 FTE) for the 2015-17 biennium; and \$328,563 Total Fund (1.00 FTE) for the 2017-19 biennium. The breakdown of these costs is detailed below:

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
Personal Services	89,931	102,780
Services and Supplies	33,088	26,103
Special Payments		
Purchase of Printers	52,740	
Operations and Maintenance of Printers	109,440	109,440
Postage	93,540	90,240
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$378,739	\$328,563

DHS reports that the Self-Sufficiency programs prints an average of approximately 8,000 replacement cards a month. Based on a projection of 192,000 replacement cards a biennium, DHS anticipates establishing 1 Human Services Specialist 1 position to coordinate the processing of these replacement cards. Startup costs include the purchase of 12 specialized printers that would not de-magnetize the EBT card strip or take off the pre-printed unique number printers at \$4,395 a printer.

This bill requires budgetary action in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the allocation of General Fund and position authorization.

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Laurie Byerly, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires replacement electronic benefits transfer card (EBT card) to display names of individual to whom card was issued. Requires use of card for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Removes current direct deposit option. Excludes certain SNAP benefits to senior citizens and Social Security Income checks.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When a person qualifies for state assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), an account is established, much like an ordinary bank account, allowing the recipient to access benefits using an EBT card (electronic benefits transfer), called the Oregon Trail Card. The card operates just like a bank card: benefits are deposited into the recipient's account on a monthly basis and the recipient may make purchases or withdraw cash using the card at store locations and automatic teller machines. A cardholder receiving SNAP benefits may buy food, and a cardholder receiving TANF benefits may buy nonfood items and obtain cash.

House Bill 2392 requires a replacement EBT card to display the name of the individual to whom the replacement card was issued. It would also reduce the option to receive direct deposit for some assistance programs.