Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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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.