

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood

MEASURE: SB 225 A
CARRIER: Sen. Dembrow

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/10/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/03, 03/10

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to inform benefit recipients of suspensions or closures of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and SNAP for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), 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 individual notices for mailing that are not needed
- Ability to redirect funds toward services
- Alternatives methods to comply with rule, while still conserving costs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Permits mass notifications only for suspensions or closures and extends applicability to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Maintains individual notice requirement for reductions in assistance.

BACKGROUND:

Current law requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to send notice of changes to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) to each individual recipient by mail one month before the change takes effect, and at least ten days before any changes that take effect within 60 days. There is substantial cost involved, and if the notices turn out to be unnecessary, the expenditure is a waste.

Senate Bill 225-A changes the individual notice requirement by permitting mass notification, rather than individual notice, of suspensions or closures of SNAP and SNAP for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), while maintaining the individual notice requirement for reductions in assistance.