

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/06/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/29, 05/06

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Buehler, Gallegos, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Exc: 2 - Evans, Parrish

Prepared By: Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority to notify benefit recipients of suspensions or closures of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program 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:

- Federal government shutdown

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority are required to send notice of benefits changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to each individual recipient by mail one month before the change takes effect, and at least ten days before any changes take effect within 60 days. In cases of large-scale program changes that impact benefits levels, such as in the case of a government shutdown, there is substantial cost involved in this type of notification. Additionally, if the mass changes do not take effect, the erroneous notification can cause confusion for recipients.

Senate Bill 225-A permits mass notification in cases of suspensions or closures of SNAP or WIC while maintaining the individual notice requirements for changes in eligibility or benefits.