

SB 1585

Relating to state finance

On February 22nd, the Human Services Subcommittee voted to recommend passage of SB 1585, with amendments.

The bill makes the \$9 surcharge on nursing license fees authorized in the 2015 session for the Oregon Nursing Advancement Fund also applicable to nurses who are licensed by indorsement (in addition to exam and renewal). About \$32,000 per year would potentially be collected in additional revenue for the fund; expenditure authority can be provided later in the biennium if needed.

The bill also permits the Department of Human Services to make augmented payments to long term care facilities that submit acquisition plans (rather require a completed transaction) to purchase long term care bed capacity by June 30, 2016, which extends a 2015 sunset. Associated costs will depend on program participation; DHS does not anticipate a fiscal impact in the 2015-17 biennium.

The amendment gives DHS the flexibility to establish a separate pediatric subacute reimbursement rate for certain pediatric nursing services; currently there is authority for only one rate. There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this change.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 1585 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.