

**SB 834 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services**

---

**Prepared By:** Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/8

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Department of Human Services to develop proposal for creation of human rights commission. Requires department to report findings and proposal to Legislative Assembly by September 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued*

*REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Several other states have commissions or agencies dedicated to adjudicating the rights of individuals with disabilities. For example, Arizona statute creates the Human Rights Committee on Persons with Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Economic Security, and it reviews incidents regarding developmentally disabled people. Georgia has a similar Human Rights Council housed in its Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Washington has an independent Human Rights Commission which administers and enforces the state's "Law Against Discrimination," which covers certain discrimination against mentally and physically disabled people in public accommodations, employment, housing, and credit & insurance. Oregon has no such commission.

Senate Bill 834 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop a proposal for creating an independent human rights commission, for the purpose of adjudicating the dignity and basic rights of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The proposal is required to address necessary legislative changes, projected costs, the independence of the commission, comparisons with other states' commissions, and enumeration of basic rights protected by the commission. Senate Bill 834 requires DHS to submit its proposal to the interim human services and health committees of the legislature by September 1, 2017.