

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2402 - 1

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Directs Center for Health Statistics to establish program allowing individual who is homeless to obtain certified copy of individual's record of live birth, free of charge.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Analysis:

House Bill 2402 establishes the Free Birth Certificates for Homeless Persons Fund and requires the Center for Health Statistics in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a program to make it possible for homeless individuals to obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate free of charge. OHA is also required to create forms and establish the process for determining that the individual making a request is homeless. The bill also requires OHA to coordinate with state, regional, and local organizations to provide outreach services and data collection in administering this program. The bill takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 79th Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

The - 1 amendment allows OHA to adopt by rule a definition for the term "individual who is homeless," and does not change the fiscal determination.

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have an impact on the Oregon Health Authority, ranging from approximately \$44,713 to \$94,713 for the 2017-19 biennium.

The agency reports that currently the Center for Health Statistics issues approximately 1,000 certified copies of birth certificates annually that are paid for by homeless services providers at \$25 per copy. Based on these numbers, OHA would need an estimated \$50,000 per biennium to cover the expense of producing certified copies of birth certificates free of charge. This conservative estimate does not account for the prospect that the number of requests would likely increase with the elimination of the \$25 fee.

In addition, the bill requires OHA to: (1) create forms and establish processes for verifying that the individual making a request is homeless; and (2) coordinate with state, regional, and local organizations to provide outreach services and data collection in administering this program. OHA calculates these outreach and administrative expenses to be a onetime cost of \$44,713. This amount includes \$39,981 for temporary staff to help the agency meet the January 1, 2018 operative date.

The fiscal impact of fully establishing the program required by this bill is \$94,713 for the 2017-19 biennium and \$50,000 for the 2019-21 biennium. However, note that the bill allows OHA to determine the maximum number of certified copies per year that it may issue free of charge. Although the bill establishes the Free Birth Certificates for Homeless Persons Fund to cover program costs, currently there is no identified source of revenues for the fund. With no moneys in this fund, the agency would be forced to establish this maximum number at zero.