

SB 1018 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Program within Department of Human Services. Establishes Oregon Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Committee to administer program. Specifies components of program and duties of committee. Becomes operative January 1, 2018. Takes effect 91st day following sine die.

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:

Oregon law establishes the Oregon Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS). That program gives technical assistance to make agency programs accessible to hearing disabled people, to advise policy makers, and promote information about the needs of hearing disabled people and available programs. The program serves in primarily an advisory role.

Senate Bill 1018 establishes the Oregon Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Program (Program) in DHS, and establishes the Oregon Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Committee (Committee) to administer the program. The measure also repeals the existing statutory program in DHS described above.

Senate Bill 1018 requires the Committee, as part of the Program, to: collect relevant data and act as a public information source; conduct studies on issues relating to people with hearing disabilities; submit reports and recommendations to the Governor's Office and Legislative Assembly; advocate for people with hearing disabilities; maintain a sign language interpreter referral service; assist in making state programs accessible to those with hearing disabilities; and implement a long-term plan for providing essential services to people with hearing disabilities. The measure requires the State Board of Education to consult with the Committee on rules setting standards for interpreters in schools. It also permits public agencies to contract with the Committee for provision of sign language interpreter services.