

HB 3405 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 4/6, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services to submit waiver request of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements to exclude advance payment of Oregon's dependent care tax credit when determining income eligibility for SNAP. Requires DHS to report annually regarding the status of the request until decision from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is received. Effective 91st day following sine die and is repealed January 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Distribution of child and dependent care tax credits on monthly basis
- SNAP income calculation
- Cash flow to low-income individuals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal nutrition assistance program providing monthly benefits to eligible, low-income individuals and families. These monthly benefits are used to purchase food items for the low-income individual or family. Oregon's SNAP Program is administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). Benefits are distributed through Oregon's Electronic Benefit Transfer system, which credits the benefit onto the individual or family's 'Oregon Trail Card' for purchasing food items. As of February 2017, DHS reports there are over 680,000 Oregonians currently participating in the SNAP Program.

Individuals qualify for Oregon's dependent care tax credit if they also qualify for the federal child and dependent care tax credit. Individuals or households are credited based on the percentage of eligible expenses as determined by their federal taxable income. Dependent care expenses must be employment related and are limited to the lesser of \$3,000 for one qualifying dependent and \$6,000 for two or more qualified dependents, or the individual's earned income.

House Bill 3405 requires DHS to submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements to exclude advance payment of Oregon's dependent care tax credit when determining income eligibility for SNAP. DHS is required to report annually regarding the status of the waiver request until decision from the USDA is received.