

## **SB 238 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Human Services**

---

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

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/15, 4/12

---

#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to pay contracting entities an amount sufficient to cover 150 percent of minimum wage for certain direct support professionals. Requires DHS to provide online training for certain direct support professionals using specified curriculum. Operative on January 1, 2018. Sunsets online training requirements January 2, 2020. Appropriates funds. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*FISCAL: Fiscal Statement Issued*

*REVENUE: No Revenue Impact*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effect of low wages for direct service professionals on recruitment and retention
- Effect of turnover in staff for patients served by direct support professionals
- Nature of work for direct support professionals
- Provisions of measure
- Training programs for direct support professionals
- Proposed amendments

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Direct service professionals assist people with disabilities to achieve greater independence and integration into their local communities. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that there are challenges with recruitment and retention of direct care workers due to low wages and benefits, unclear roles, undefined career paths, and insufficient training. High turnover rates of direct support professionals can result in higher costs and under-staffing for long term care providers, and quality of service to facility residents can be impacted.

Senate Bill 238 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to pay contracting agencies enough to allow those agencies to pay their direct support professionals at least 150 percent of the state minimum wage. The measure defines direct support professionals as those employed by a DHS contracting agency who work directly with people with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities. Senate Bill 238 also requires DHS to provide online training in conformity with the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals. The measure also appropriates funds to DHS to provide grants for direct support professionals to take the online training and sunsets the training requirements on January 2, 2020.