

HB 3405 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to submit waiver request of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements to exclude advance monthly payment of state dependent care tax credit when determining eligibility. Requires DHS to report annually regarding the status of the request until federal waiver decision is received. Sunsets January 1, 2023. Takes effect 91st day after sine die.

FISCAL: Minimal Expenditure Impact

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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

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 SNAP requirements. The waiver would request exclusion of advance monthly payment of Oregon's dependent care tax credit when determining eligibility for SNAP. DHS is required to report to the legislature annually regarding the status of the waiver request until decision from the USDA is received.