

HB 2347 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/26, 5/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends authority of Department of Human Services (DHS) to offer resources to individuals eligible for certain temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) programs until July 1, 2019. Extends suspension of increase in cash assistance to families enrolled in Family Pre-Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (Family Pre-SSI/SSDI) programs until July 1, 2019. Extends suspension of increase of duration that family receiving TANF may continue to receive assistance upon becoming ineligible due to employment or increased hours of work until July 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Fiscal Impact Issued

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of TANF expansion
- Current TANF program operation
- Impact of budget restrictions on TANF expansion, and necessity to delay expansion

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Requires savings from DHS implementation of TANF policy changes or TANF enrollment reductions to be used to increase TANF grants to specified amount.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

BACKGROUND:

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance to low-income families. Cash assistance is used to meet a family's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and utilities. Over 60,000 Oregonians are participating in the TANF program. To qualify for TANF, families must be at or below 37 percent of the federal poverty level and have few assets. Most people who receive TANF are required to participate in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS), which provides a variety of activities including education, health services, life skills, and job training. In 2007, the Legislative Assembly expanded state TANF programs. However, since 2008 the legislature has suspended the expansion because of budgetary concerns stemming from Great Recession and recovery.

House Bill 2347 extends the authority of the Department of Human Services to offer resources to individuals eligible for TANF, including the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills Program, until July 1, 2019. It extends the suspension of the increase in cash assistance paid to families enrolled in State Family Pre-Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance program until July 1, 2019. Finally, the measure extends the suspension of the duration that a family receiving temporary assistance to needy families may continue to receive assistance upon becoming ineligible

due to employment or increased hours of work until July 1, 2019.

PRELIMINARY